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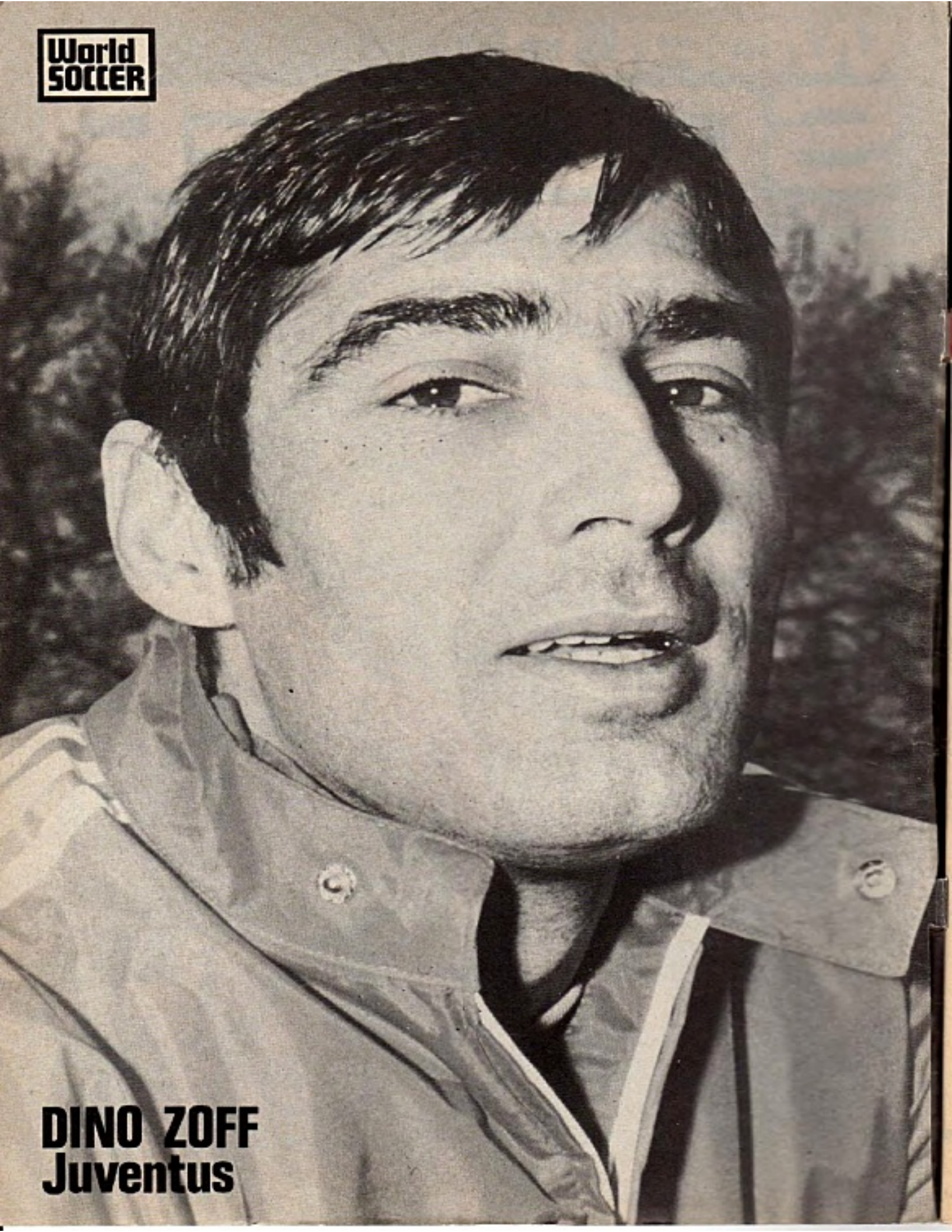
WORLD SOCCER

The *INTERNATIONAL* Magazine

APRIL 1973


World SOCCER
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WORLD SOCCER
incorporating SOCCER STAR
The INTERNATIONAL Magazine

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English clubs progress

ALL four English clubs left in European competition successfully negotiated the quarter final stages and set the scene for a major assault on the European Cup, Cup Winners Cup and UEFA Cup. No country has managed to annex all three in one season but Derby County, Leeds United, Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur must all be confident of their chances.

Derby, naturally, will be hoping to avoid Ajax in the semi-finals of the European Cup. Ajax have already proved what a tremendous side they are although it is difficult to envisage Derby giving quite as much away as Bayern Munich.

Derby have already done well to reach the last four. Spartak Trnava proved stubborn opponents but two goals from the vastly under-rated (outside of Derby at least), Kevin Hector sunk the Czechs. It is the European Cup which really matters and the English champions have a wonderful chance.

Leeds United simply massacred Rapid Bucharest, and after the heavy-footed display of the Rumanians at Elland Road it is difficult to have much sympathy for them. An 8–1 aggregate in the quarter finals represents an incredible performance. Rapid must be thankful Leeds took only an under-strength side to Bucharest.

Leeds, also through to the semi-finals of the FA Cup, and strong contenders for the League Championship, face a hectic period. So often in the past they have finished with precious little reward for their endeavours. Perhaps this year they might even sweep the board.

The UEFA Cup, and its predecessor the Fairs Cup, seems to have become the personal property of English clubs. Liverpool and Tottenham should ensure the monopoly continues.

Finally, congratulations to Sunderland for reaching the semi-finals of the FA Cup, where they face Arsenal, on the verge of their third successive Cup Final. Wolves meet Leeds in the other tie and we could have a repeat of the 1972 final when Leeds beat Arsenal 1–0. That was a game to forget. Here's hoping '73 is different.

FRONT COVER

Rodney Marsh of Manchester City jumps for the ball confronted by Norwich City goalkeeper Kevin Keelan. Last month's caption writer has been fired after confusing John Pratt and Steve Perryman of Spurs. He was given his cards, and all the letters readers sent in.

ROGER MACDONALD'S SOCCER NOTEBOOK

Santos, suitcase

IN the middle of last month, an interesting breach of Her Majesty's currency regulations took place at Heathrow Airport, when the Santos business manager flew back to Sao Paulo. In his luggage was the best part of £15,000 in assorted denominations, the proceeds of Santos's friendly match against Plymouth. Argyle. At least, it started as a friendly, but even before the kick-off Argyle felt that they had been the victims of what one might possibly term the 'floodlight robbery'.

Some 35 minutes before the game was due to start, Santos demanded to see the match receipts, and subsequently, they insisted on an increase in their previously agreed fee of £12,000. Plymouth, understandably, refused, only to capitulate when it became apparent that the Brazilians would not turn out.

Now this situation could have arisen because of a genuine misunderstanding at some point in the negatiations, had not Santos also questioned Fulham's match receipts two days before; a similar situation occurred earlier in their tour, in Teheran. It seems that the club are so desperate for funds, that even the £12,000 fee they have been demanding all over the world is simply not enough.

New contract

The problem, of course, is highlighted by Pele's intention — though the road to retirement is paved with good intentions — to quit the game next summer, when he may be joining the Brazilian television team as a commentator at the 1974 World Cup. On the one hand Santos are making desperate efforts to persuade him to sign a new contract, on the other they are 'cashing in' while Pele is still there to draw the crowds and the money. For Santos know full well that with Pele's retirement goes the goose that lays the golden eggs.

Pele himself, because of certain business difficulties, may not be quite so reluctant to extend his contract as one might imagine, but if he does sign on again, he will probably squeeze Santos until the pips squeak. Already it is estimated that as much as 25 per cent of their total revenue goes to Pele alone, not unreasonably he would argue, since 80 per cent of if derives from his personal appearances. It seems likely that we will want a much larger share if he is to continue.

In the meantime, Santos may need all their influence to prevent some unpleasant consequences befalling them after what happened at Plymouth and Fulham. A ban on their foreign tours by FIFA, which would be financially disastrous, cannot be entirely ruled out. At any rate, Jimmy Hill could be proved correct after all when he said this was Pele's last visit to Britain as a member of a once glorious football team.

Havelange campaigns

THE gloves are off: the gloves, that is, usually worn by Jean Havelange, the Brazilian F.A President, who next year will be standing against Sir Stanley Rous for the FIFA Presidency.

Such a contest, of course, is subject to Sir Stanley accepting a further nomination, which cannot be certain. But Senor Havelange is proceeding to the ring prepared for more than a single round, and determined, in the meantime, to discover exactly who will be in his corner.

When Brazil fly to Europe for the start of thier World Cup warm-up tour in June, Havelange will be with them, prepared to shake a few hands and drink a few drinks with the presidents of the European Associations. But he knows, or hopes he does, already, who will be for him and against him in Europe: it is the uncommitted members of FIFA in far-flung lands that he wishes to win over. So Havelange will leave the Brazilian squad behind to fly on to Asia, in particular to Malaysia. Cambodia and the Philippines, three 'neutral' associations in this particular cold war.

Nor has Havelange let the grass grow under his feet back home. He has turned the old Jules Rimet trophy, won outright by Brazil in Mexico, into good money-making use, by inventing a new competition for the 74 professional and semi-professional clubs around the country. They are to play in the Jules Rimet Tournament, with the winning club from each state receiving a replica of the old World Cup itself.

With the extra revenue brought in by this tournament the CBD will be able to finance any spectacular venture that Havelange feels is necessary to tip the balance in his favour. He would pay quite a bit, one suspects, to make his South American neighbours forget that his father was a Belgian and that his real name is Jean-Marie.

A MOTOR accident outside Innsbruck has resulted in the death of Edi Fruwirth, the former Austrian international. Fruwirth, who had been coaching Wacker — Innsbruck, had enjoyed considerable managerial success since his retirement. Among his successes could be numbered Schalke, who won the German Cup under his leadership, and FK Austria, whom he led to the Austrian league championship.

URUGUAY'S passage into the World Cup finals could be eased considerably by a major row between Colombia's leading players and their national association. The dispute, as always, is over money: the players want an extra five dollars a day for each one spent in training with the national side, and an extra 50 dollars for each match, win or lose.

The Colombian F.A. have threatened to suspend their entire squad of 22 players, not only from World Cup ties, but also from league matches, friendly games and the especially lucrative South American Club Cup. In retaliation the players say if any sanctions of any kind are taken against them they will refuse to turn out again for the national side, even if by some unlikely chance they should qualify for the World Cup finals.

Pele and a of dollars

Pele in action against Fulham at Craven Cottage. Paul Went (5) and Alan Mullery are the Fulham players.

PORTUGAL IN FORM

ALTHOUGH a victory over France, even in Paris, is hardly a pointer to some future world champions, Portugal's recent 2-1 victory did confirm the promise they showed in the Brazilian Independence Tournament last summer.

It was a personal triumph for Eusebio, who on his 61st appearance for the national side, scored both Portugal's goals — the first from a penalty the second close to time, after France had taken the lead against the run of play.

Eusebio, now 31, seems much more relaxed these days, as though further glory would be welcome, but is not essential to the tranquility of his existence. He was greeted with an extraordinary welcome from the crowd at the new Parc des Prince, not least from the enthusiastic Portuguese said to number an astonishing 25,000.

Eusebio was looking a little tired, but this was hardly surprising in view of the fact that his club, Benefica, had only just returned from an exhausting Far East tour; where some of them had suffered from mild food poisoning at Hong Kong. Eusebio was particularly pleased with his performance against the Indonesian national side in Jakarta, where he scored four goals.

Traumatic

He is, needless to say, also the leading scorer in Portugal, where Benfica have enjoyed an incredible run of victories since their traumatic failure against Derby County. And the entire Benfica team — Henrique: Humberto, Adolfo, Freitas, Rodrigues; Graca, Victor, Toni, Nene, Eusebio and Simoes — were included in the party that went to Paris.

Apart from Eusebio, Henrique had an outstanding game in the Portuguese goal: he has improved out of all recognition over the past couple of seasons. But the most accomplished all-round performance came from Antonio Jose Conceicao Oliveira, called Toni, who ran rings around the French midfield. Nene, whose real name is Tarnaguini Manuel Games Baptista, had a fine game on the wing, beating his opponents by speed and remarkable footwork.

With such players under his control, small wonder that the Portuguese team manager, the former Benfica player Jose Augusto, is confident of reaching the finals of the next World Cup. This minor success in Paris, coupled with Portugals excellent performances in Brazil, where they beat Argentina and the Russian selection, and gave the Brazilians a remarkably difficult match in the final, do nothing to suggest he might be wrong.

EUROPE

BRUGES CRUISE ON...

BELGIUM

FC BRUGES are still leading the First Division with a healthy five-point lead and unless they repeat their collapse of last season must be favourites for the title. This is in spite of being surprisingly held to a 2-2 draw by neighbours Cercle Bruges.

Most of the other contenders have suffered from drawn games and Racing White in particular must be cursing their home defeat by Union St. Gilloise. Since then they have done better but have too much ground to make up it seems.

After their improvement of recent weeks, Anderlecht have slumped again and the loss of form began with a 2-1 defeat at Berchem. Local boss Rik Coppens watched Paul Van Himst equal his record of 217 goals in this game.

Anderlecht, having been turned down in an approach for national team manager Raymond Goethals, may now go to Standard for Rene Hauss at the end of the season when the latter's contract runs out. But the Liege club will not let him go that easily.

Financial

Goalkeeping honours in Belgium are going these days to the Dutchman Nico de Bree of Racing White. This popular young man boasts a fan club, too — composed entirely of females!

News that Racing White and Second Division Daring may combine next season underlines the financial plight of most clubs. In a recent week the eight League games in Division I drew an aggregate of only 70,000. Top attendance was the 20,000 for the Standard-Racing match.

Standard have been fined over disturbances following a 0-0 draw with Lierse when they complained about the referee and asked for a replay. Now Standard are appealing against the sentence.

Milestone for balding Standard skipper Leon Semmeling who recently completed his 600th game for the club and when asked to name his own commemorative present chose a refrigerator.

The FA are going to insist on the size of the publicity given to sponsors' adverts displayed on the front of players' shirts. They want smaller ones. For instance, Standard have a huge Texaco emblazoned on their chests and Racing White boast a similar Gulf advert.

Benfica clinch league title

PORTUGAL

BENFICA'S trip to the East apparently did them no harm. Since returning they have virtually assured themselves of their 20th League title and taken their phenomenal run this term to 23 games with 23 wins. Nearest rivals Belenenses were defeated 2-0 as well.

Victory number 23 was against Vitoria Setubal who conceded three goals to the rampant Eagles of Estoril. Benfica have scored 76 goals and conceded only 10 and stretched their lead to 14 points. They need just one more to be certain of the crown with seven games to play.

National team boss José Augusto, himself a former Benfica star, experimented in the friendly in Paris against France and came away with a 2-1 win. This was a useful performance particularly as he lost centre-back Humberto (Benfica) injured in the opening minutes.

He brought on veteran Simoes to play midfield and pulled schemer Quaresma back to form a twin-stopper role with Freitas. The last two named play for Belenenses and Quaresma, the club skipper, did well in an unusual role for him.

Eusebio scored both Portugal goals —one from the penalty spot the other in the closing minutes. Porto striker Abel looked a useful proposition as did Benfica centre-forward Artur Jorge when he came on late as another substitute.

With vital World Cup qualifying matches coming up shortly, José Augusto's experiments have appeared to be worth while.

Mention of Porto brings to mind the Argentinian striker Heredia, who is playing well for the club's reserve side and has hit five of their last ten goals. The Flavio-Abel-Heredia striking force could test Benfica's might next season it seems.

Christian Piot, goalkeeper of Standard Liege and Belgium.

EUROPE

FOREIGN REFEREES MAY BE UTILISED

GREECE

NOTHING but trouble it seems is the order of the day. And it all appears to centre on Olympiakos Piraeus. Earlier in the season they beat Panathinaikos 1-0 and brought a threat by the losers that they would quit the League.

Next Olympiakos beat League leaders PAOK Salonika by a similar score and the beaten side said they were unhappy about the refereeing and would ask for the official's suspension, otherwise their reserves would take their league place.

Now comes the worst of all. Six minutes from the end of a fiery affair with Panathinaikos again, the game was abandoned by the referee with Olympiakos leading 3-2 after Panathinaikos goalkeeper Konstantinou was alleged to have hit the referee and was sent off. Uproar caused the abandonment of the match.

And even in Cyprus, where Panathinaikos were playing Omonia, the game was called off at half-time with the scoreline 0-0 after the crowd invaded the pitch!

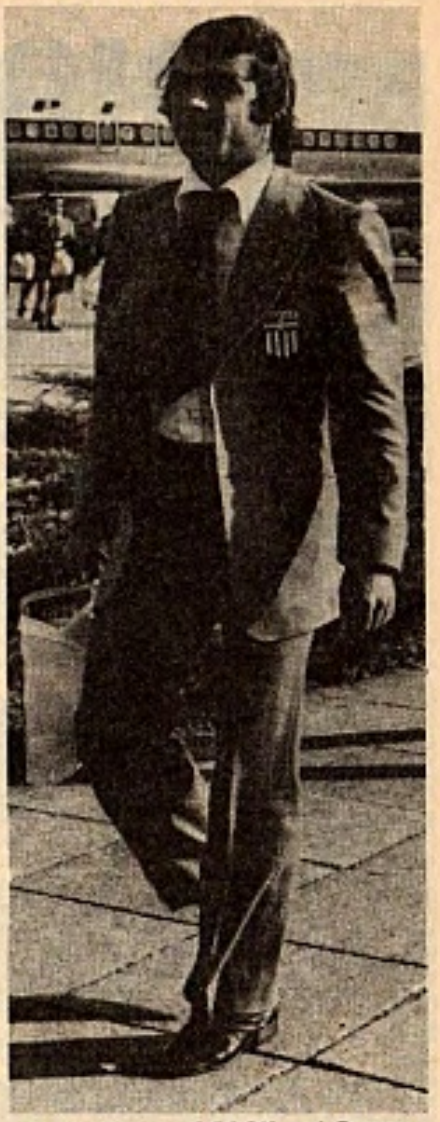
Now there is talk of importing foreign referees — smuggling them in without identifying them and getting them out again after the game—in an attempt to improve refereeing standards and discipline on the field.

Defensive

PAOK's defeat was their first in 20 matches this season and the next week they crashed similarly 1-0 to bottom but three club Fostir, who took advantage of a 70th minute defensive error in one of their rare counter-attacks.

National team manager Billy Bingham looks at the World Cup qualifying group which puts his team at the bottom without a point and is sad, but now he has taken over the reins of AEK Athens, too, from Branko Stankovic he can channel his problems along another course as well.

Panathinaikos were latter banned for two matches.



Jorgos Kudas of PAOK and Greece.

Barcelona still ahead

SPAIN

BARCELONA are still leading Madrid as the soccer capital of Spain with Español and CFB ahead of Atletico and Real. But it is impoverished Español who have stolen the limelight recently.

They had the audacity to go to Nou Camp and beat Barcelona 1-0 in the Catalan local derby before a capacity crowd who paid record receipts for the privilege.

Barcelona, the richest club in Spain and one who pays its players and manager as much as anybody outside Italy, can boast 65,000 members on the supporters' role, but Español's team of cast-offs, ageing has-beens and unknown youngsters were full value for their win.

Español boss is the former Uruguayan and Real Madrid centre-half José Emilio Santamaria. His team is built round discarded Real Madrid pivot Pedro De Felipe (28) who centres a half-back line of veterans Poli (29) and Jesus Glaria (31). Behind them left-back Miguel Ochoa (28) is also playing brilliantly at present.

Up front another "middle-aged" man Josée Maria (30) holds the attack together but youngsters like David Solsona (21) and top scorer Juan Amiano (25) command attention along with right winger Robert Martinez, Argentinian-born hero of Spain's recent 3-1 win over Greece in the World Cup qualifying game.

Now Spain must draw in Yugoslavia and hope that Greece will do something in the last match against the Slavs.

In the European Cup, Real Madrid came back from the depths of Odessa with a precious 0-0 draw, thanks to some fantastic goalkeeping by Garcia Remon, freely tipped as the winner of the Ricardo Zamora trophy for goalkeeping this term.

D'ESCH LEAD

LUXEMBOURG

DESPITE being surprisingly held at home by The National—lying third from the foot of the table — Jeunesse D'Esch have a comfortable eight-point lead and need only one point from four matches to seal the title.

But the plight of the game in the Duchy is illustrated by the defeat of a strong national side which lost 3-1 to the French amateur 11. A consolation goal came from Jeunesse D'Esch striker Jean Pierre Hoffman in the 81st minute. The Luxembourg side included two professionals in exile Fernand Jeitz, captain of the French club Metz, and Paul Philipp of Belgium's Union St. Gilloise.

EUROPE

SHOCK DEFEAT BY ARGENTINA

West Germany

by ARTHUR ROTMIL

THE well known aphorism about the "glorious uncertainty of football" has rarely been demonstrated in such startling fashion as when West Germany crashed at home to Argentina by 2-3. But what makes this result even more incredible is the simple conclusion that on balance it was thoroughly just. The mostly unknown South Americans gave a lesson in the arts and crafts of football to a side who only last June walked away with the European Championship and who have since been hailed as the greatest team in the world.

It is true, of course, that the Germans were without their golden striker Gerd Müller, the brilliant schemer Günter Netzer and his midfield partner Uli Hoeness. They were all injured and so was another member of the squad, Jürgen Grabowski, but to offer their absence as an excuse for this failure would be to ignore the fact that they are all forwards. In this match it was the defence which collapsed dramatically and inexplicably, though it must be said that the whole team played with arrogant nonchalance having been quite clearly misled as to the strength of the opposition!

After falling behind by 0-2, inside the opening quarter-hour, the match slipped from their grasp and frankly they never looked like saving the game. Of course, it could be argued that a full German side would immediately have found their rhythm and not allowed the visitors to surprise them so early. But all this is quite hypothetical and must remain a matter of conjecture.

Mobility

What astonished the 50,000 crowd in Munich's Olympic stadium was not only the subtle skills, speed, mobility and the ambitious approach of the mostly inexperienced Argentinians. It was also their marvellous adjustment to the climatic conditions. They flew in from a temperature of 35 degrees Centigrade (95 Fahrenheit) into the freezing wintry weather of Munich without showing any effects of this drastic change.

Germany's manager Helmut Schön nominated the expected replacements for his injured stars, by putting Heynckes in the centre for Müller, with Geye on the right flank. Breitner moved into midfield for Hoeness, allowing Vogts to return at full back. Netzer's place was taken by Wolfgang Overath, who in the circumstances proved the greatest flop. Thus one could say that including positional switches the Germans had made six changes, from their normal line up.

Bertie Vogts was back in the West German side for the visit of Argentina.

The Argentinians led by 3-0 with goals from Chiso (5 min.), Alonso—a 20-year-old, who scored with a fantastic banana free kick which completed a trajectory of 180 degrees (14.), and Brindisi (67. pen), before the Germans replied through Heynckes (78.) and Cullmann (90.), who came on as a substitute for the disappointing Schwarzenbeck. It was Germany's first home defeat for eight years and after 26 matches—precisely since May 12, 1965, when England won 1-0 at Nuremberg.

But it has caused little panic among the chiefs, the general consensus of opinion being that this setback should serve as a warning in face of creeping complacency. "Just as well this happened now and not in the World Cup,"—was the summary of views from some prominent observers including Sepp Herberger, Uwe Seeler, Fritz Walter and Max Merkel.

There was more excitement in this country at club level when champions and League leaders Bayern Munich tackled the world and European title holders Ajax Amsterdam in the quarter-finals of the European Cup. The Bavarians, whose backbone is formed by six current internationals, have set themselves as their supreme target the ultimate triumph in Europe's premier club competition, something no German team has as yet achieved.

Full house

Since Bayern defeated Glasgow Rangers to win the Cup Winners Cup in 1967, they have failed to reach another European final. In 1968 the Bavarians fell to A.C. Milan by 0-2 and 0-0, and in 1972 to Glasgow Rangers 0-2 and 1-1, both in the Cup Winners contest and each time in the semi-finals. In 1969 the red-whites were put out in the first round of the Champions Cup by St. Etienne (France) 2-0 and 0-3, whilst in the Fairs Cup in 1971, they lost to Liverpool by 0-3 and 1-1.

The clash with Ajax was at least guaranteed to produce a full house at the Olympic stadium. Not only were the 75,000 tickets sold instantly, but over 30,000 applications have had to be returned! No wonder Bayern's president Wilhelm Neudecker is suggesting to UEFA that from the quarter-finals onwards, the European Cup should be staged on a League basis with the eight clubs playing each other home and away!

And this game from Munich will be televised live, after a lot of haggling before a total fee from the German ZDF channel, plus Eurovision will have brought Bayern a cool £20,000! The German champions, who in mid-February opened a seven-point gap at the top, can now sleep soundly on their title hopes, whilst dreaming of a European Cup conquest.

Leading goalscorers: Gerd Müller (Bayern) 24; Jupp Heynckes (Borussia Mönchengladbach) 19; Wunder (MSV Duisburg) 15; Pröpper (Wuppertaler SV) and Hoeness (Bayern) 14; Kostedde (Offenbach) 13; Geye and Budde (both Fortuna Düsseldorf) 11; Walitza (VfL Bochum) and Frank (VfB Stuttgart) 10.

EUROPE

France by Andre Duclos

Bargas makes impact with Nantes

DISTINGUISHED foreign players continue to come into French football, and few have made more of an impact than the defender, Angel Hugo Bargas. This good looking young man was released by his new club, Nantes, to help Argentina win their famous 3-2 victory over West Germany at Munich. He then returned to make a spectacular debut for Nantes in the Cup against Sedan at Rouen, where they won a gritty 1-0 victory. Bargas is small but tough and alert, a shy man off the field, a decisive one on it. It is most unusual for Argentina to call upon players who have decamped to foreign fields. Bargas must be very pleased, since this suggests that he would eventually be able to play in the 1974 World Cup.

Another famous foreigner, Salif Keita, now with Marseilles, has just roundly refused to consider the possibility of "assimilation" as a French player. Disappointing news, this, for Georges Boulogne, the French national selector, who must long have coveted the tall, slender Malian as a French international centre-forward. Keita put great emphasis on the amount of attention his least little actions and gestures aroused in his own country; which led one a little wryly to wonder what they thought in Mali about his gross gestures at his old President, Saint-Etienne's Roger Rocher, after his debut against them for Marseilles.

Two Poles have just started playing for French clubs; real Poles this time, rather than the sons of a Polish miner and a French mother. One is the tall, slim half-back Bernard Blaut, now 31 years old, who has joined Metz after long, successful years with Legia Warsaw, whom he captained, and whom he expects to return to manage, after a couple of years in France. The other is the 32-year-old former Gornik midfield player, Erwin Wilczek, who spent an anxious time at Valenciennes—the supporters' club put up the money to sign him—waiting for his authorisation to arrive from Poland.

Presidential level

Each man has found Polish, or partly Polish, colleagues, for the tradition in France continues; the tradition which has so far provided no fewer than 37 internationals of Polish descent for the French national team. Raymond Kopa, with his 45 caps, his marvellous 1958 World Cup, still sits in splendour above the rest. There are still seventeen such players active in the French first division, among them Victor Zvunka at Metz, Jules Zvunka at Marseilles, and two at Valenciennes: Jean-Pierre Kuskowiak and Jean-March Lawniczak.

Paris F.C. has none, but things, there, seem to be going better, since the change in personnel at managerial and Presidential level. Antoine Dalla Cieca's men have been giving as good as they get in the League, and made some progress in the Cup, with a most exciting and dramatic 3-2 win at Nimes over Bastia; a much-fancied side, finalists last season. That took Paris, Mordecai Spiegler and their new manager, Dalla Cieca, into the last sixteen.

Neutral ground

A pity in a way that the match could not have taken place at the new Parc des Princes, where a healthy crowd of 23,948 watched Olympique Marseille beat the Corsicans of Ajaccio, 2-0, with goals by the inevitable Keita and Josip Skoblar. By contrast, Paris' victory over Bastia, played in Nimes, drew a miserable 6,700 spectators. In these sad days of diminishing gates, a problem which faces us in France as much as elsewhere, perhaps it is time for the time honoured practice of playing all Cup ties on a neutral ground to give way to the English habit of playing them on a home and away basis, at least until the semi-finals. Thus, Nimes themselves, beating Valenciennes after extra time by 3-2 in a match of swaying fortunes at Clermont-Ferrand, were watched by a mere 3,770 spectators.

One of the pleasing features of Paris' recent improvement has been the excellent form of Daniel Horlaville, who for so long was the great "lost" talent of French football; lost because he resolutely refused to leave his amateur club, Quevilly, and turn professional. He had success after success, for all that; a full French cap while playing still as an amateur, not to mention a splendid Olympic tournament in 1968 when he helped materially in the French victory over Mexico, 4-1.

Scarcely had he at long last been persuaded to change his mind than a severe fracture put him out of football, and there were doubts whether, after long absence, he would ever be the same again. Horlaville has answered that with his recent performances, and he is hitting it off well with a player of very different background; the Russian born Israeli international, Mordecai Spiegler.

Bastia, Paris' Cup victims, were notable ones indeed, having in the previous round put out the pacemakers in the League, Nice. Their centre-forward, "Fanfan" Felix, still only 23 years old and a scorer against Paris, is being spoken of as a possible international centre-forward. If this comes about, it will cause a few wry grimaces in Lyon, where, most surprisingly, they let him go after he had been in the first team since the age of 19.

A modest young man off the field, a forceful one on it, Felix has settled very happily in Corsica, being responsive to the beauties of the island. He says generously that playing for Lyon—where his parents took him as an infant—was a splendid experience, thanks to his partnership with the little international inside-left, Fleury Di Nallo, whom he considers "one of the best French post-war players." He has played for the Under 23 team; his rivals for the full international side are Herve Revelli of Nice, and the Strasbourg player, Michel Molitor.

Of Herve Revelli, now with Nice but once with Saint Etienne, like their present centre-forward, his brother Patrick, it has been said that he has lost his appetite for goal. Revelli himself admits there is some truth in this, though he did have a very good game against his old club. Perhaps the constant battles in the firing line have taken away some of his edge, given him a preference for making bullets for others to fire. He remains a fine player.

The Anglo-Italiartour

Whiff o represe

THE Anglo-Italian tournament is with us again, trying hard to turn over a new leaf and make us forget its gloomy past. To give the organisers their due, they have learned from the experience of the last, disastrous three seasons. Whether they can get the thing really and truly off the ground remains to be seen. There are still all sorts of obstacles which, for all their efforts and their good intentions, may finally prove intractable. For my own part, thoroughly though I have assailed the competition in the past, I should like to see it succeed. One of the more embattled of its English defenders publicly accused those of us who attacked it as "prejudiced." What prejudice? I myself lived in Italy for years, have followed Italian football for a couple of decades and still, for all its fearful faults and shortcomings, still do. To criticise and deplore the Anglo-Italian tournament in its previous incarnations was no more than to be honest and objective.

Now the organizers have sensibly brought it forward from the summer into the actual season, and have equally rationally delayed the moment of acceptance till the end of January, so that clubs are able to see where they stand.

The trouble is that clubs cannot, alas, always see quite where they stand, and even when they do, do not always draw the logical assumptions. The opening match of the tournament, between Crystal Palace and Verona, was evidence enough of that. Palace entered the tournament, like Verona, at a time when they knew they had on their hands a bitter battle against relegation. As if this were not enough, they suddenly found themselves embroiled in a three match series of Cup ties against Sheffield Wednesday; something which could not possibly have been foreseen.

John Tudor of Newcastle United scores against Roma in an Anglo-Italian League game in Rome. Newcastle won 2–0.

But at least Palace put a good side into the field against Verona. The Italians, by contrast, put out a team composed fifty per cent of reserves; and the first team is modest enough. No wonder only 7000 bothered to go along; though one would imagine that their lack of interest was thanks to the fact that Verona is famous for Romeo and Juliet, rather than for football. The names of the Verona players could have meant very little to them; just as the similar, 7000 gate at Hull City versus Lazio can scarcely be explained by the absence of Re Cecconi, Chinaglia and Garlaschelli.

Bert Head, the Crystal Palace manager, was cheerful enough about the match, when one spoke to him. It took his players' minds off their ensuing relegation game against Stoke City, he felt, and he believed they would always prefer to play than to train.

A further intractable is the style of Italian play. As one—far from prejudiced—colleague expostulated, why the Italians? They play the most negative football in Europe!

Remarked

The match at Old Trafford between Manchester United and Fiorentina was an intriguing and frustrating illustration of that. For the fan, it was a bore; indeed, one well known young manager remarked to me afterwards, "There was a corner at the end. There were two United forwards and five Italian defenders. How can you play like that? I'd never enter this tournament!"

Fiorentina, deprived, it is true, of several key players such as their Brazilian centre-forward, Sergio Clerici, Orlandini and Merlo, the midfield man, shut up shop in a dour *catenaccio*, and relied on breakaways.

But what breakaways! Nello Saltutti,

liantournament still struggles for survival

f of tear gas sents decay

who joined the club this season from Foggia, and Macchi, a 21 year old Tuscan born near Pisa, were hosts in themselves, fast, strong, penetrative and wonderfully ambitious. It made one think that out of sterility has grown a new, remarkable breed of Italian forwards, the result of an almost Darwinian process of evolution. Things are so hard, forwards so few, defenders so many, that unless you are prepared to take on and beat three or four of them, you cannot survive.

Macchi and Saltutti, with their pace and power and control, were quite happy to confront such odds. Saltutti, who eventually scored the equalising goal after a corner, had some notable bursts in the first half, while one marvellous sprint by Macchi in the second, when he left the whole United defence panting behind him as he chased a long clearance, would have brought a goal had Alex Stepney not made an excellent save.

Distributor

There was also the exciting talent to be seen of the 18 year old Antognoni, the Perugia born inside-forward who has done so well in the League team this season; a player at once delicate and determined, a ball artist, a fine distributor, and quick into the bargain. I remember one particularly significant moment when he played the ball a foot or two short of Macchi, who had his back to the centre-half, in full confidence that Macchi would "come off" the defender and get it, where a less quick, intelligent player would have stayed to be clobbered.

Bill Foulkes, now a United coach but once their centre-half, was raving afterwards about these three players and about Scala, the tough left-back, once a Milan player, who had mastered Willie Morgan so thoroughly. Yet when you come down to cases, it remains true that the Italians are sinning against the light, squandering and crippling their own talents.

It is sad to see even a team managed by Nils Liedhol, for so many years the very embodiment of good, pure football with Milan and Sweden, caught in the grip of the Italian "disease." Horribly significant, too, that the Florentine journalists who covered the match thought it a fine one, the most open that Fiorentina had played for a long time.

Gigi Peronace, the moving spirit of the tournament, says that he hopes that contact with English teams will induce the Italians to play at long last a more open game, expressive of their ability. But will it? Though as Roberto Lovati, the former international goalkeeper and present assistant manager of Lazio told me, his club are taking it seriously, it is basically a time out of war for the rest.

Bobby Bell of Crystal Palace is challenged by a Verona player during an Anglo-Italian league game at Selhurst Park.

Nils Liedholm says he finds it a useful opportunity to try young players, and be it noted that the first round was played in the week when there would be no Italian League match to prepare for. Both the World Cup and the Under 23 side were playing; which meant that many stars were missing to their clubs.

The Italian League is so small—16 clubs, and a very logical size, too—that it is very hard not to be involved either in the contest for the title or, more probably, the battle against relegation. This makes it the more difficult to give proper attention to a marginal competition; compare and note the frequent indifference of Italian clubs even to the UEFA Cup; or the Fairs Cup as was.

Finally, there is the question of imbalance. A team like Hull City, whose adventurous attacking methods, throwing defenders forward down the flanks, can embarrass Lazio; Oxford United can draw away to Bologna. But can the likes of Como, Bari and Verona come to England and even, as Jim Wicks used to say, draw the hat off your head? One's own vested interest in wanting to see regular Anglo-Italian contacts is severely mitigated by the knowledge that in this context at least, the hurdles are high and the difficulties many. If only the Italians would play football!

All in all, though, the whiff of tear gas after Blackpool played Torino may represent the smell of decay; not merely of this tournament but of negative Italian football itself.

Club Focus on the European Cup holders

AJAX TAKE OVER AS TOP OUTFIT

by JACK ROLLIN

THE most curious aspect of Dutch football is that despite the European success attained by Ajax, their rivals Feyenoord remain the most popular club in the Netherlands. While Ajax can barely fill their small stadium at Middenweg for ordinary League games—20,000 being a good crowd in such circumstances—Feyenoord can boast twice as many.

For the big matches Ajax go to the Olympic Stadium, itself hardly the last word in comfort but at least bigger than their modest headquarter and housing 65,000.

Of course, Feyenoord come from Rotterdam and not Amsterdam but the fact remains that the former pull in more regular fans while the latter can only claim hangers-on for prestige matches.

Perhaps the easiest way of explaining the situation is that Feyenoord is the team championed by the working classes in Holland while Ajax represent the wealthier business-orientated set.

Yet support or not Feyenoord look likely to have to face the fact again that Ajax are favourites for the League title again and likely finalists in the European Cup for the third successive occasion and four times out of the last five.

The red and white tornadoes have now firmly established themselves as the best club side in Europe since Benfica took over the crown of Real Madrid. And since their first appearance in the final of the Champions Cup in 1969 they have improved their teamwork and individual ability considerably.

Bravado

Then they had the bravado and the attacking willingness but lacked guile and expertise. These qualities they now possess. Only four of the current first choice eleven have survived these four years—Wim Suurbier, Barry Hulshoff, Johan Cruyff and Piet Keizer. The veteran Sjaak Swart has conceded his place on the right flank in attack to young Johnny Rep, scorer of two goals which helped to sink Independiente in the World Club Championship and two more which defeated Feyenoord in what could have been the League title decider.

But the 20-year-old Rep is still raw compared with his colleagues and will need more time to bring himself on their level. Swart's continued presence is invaluable however because not only can he fill in as a striker but can act as a deputy full-back when the occasion arises. In fact he started off last term there when Suurbier was injured. Swart has been something of a lucky mascot for the club during his long career with the club. He is the only survivor from the club's first European Cup game against Wismut Chemnitz (East Germany) in November 1957.

Incredibly, too, he has figured in historical landmarks in Europe scoring the club's 25th, 50th, 75th and 100th goal in the major tournaments respectively against Dukla Prague (March 1967), Hannover 96 (September 1969), Nendori Tirana (September 1970) and Benfica (April 1972). He also managed the 150th goal scored by a Dutch club in Europe against Nendori.

He has also played in 53 European competition matches—more than any other Ajax player. At the start of the current season he had scored 141 goals in the League making him the sixth highest scorer in the country's history. And he has hit 18 goals in European competitions. Needless to say he is an experienced international, too. And at 34 is still a valuable member of the squad.

Naturally as a scoring phenomenon the brilliant Johan Cruyff is the big attraction. He hit his 230th goal for the club in competitive matches in August 1972 against Go Ahead and if you throw in the 20 he had managed in international fixtures it was his 250th senior goal. At the start of this season Cruyff was on 171 League goals which made him third overall in the list of goalgetters in Holland but he should finish in second place at the end of the season.

Cruyff in action for Ajax, with Beckenbauer about to tackle, against Bayern Munich in the first leg of their European Cup tie.

Jubilant Ajax players after their first goal against Bayern Munich.

Cruyff has been struggling this season with injury but has still managed to top the League scoring charts with 14 and has hit 23 goals in European matches since his debut in the 1966-67 season. Cruyff was 26 in April and is now captain of the club having taken over from Piet Keizer.

Keizer, at 29, is now the veteran of the side, ironically the one player in the team who tends to slow the game down to his own pace which enables him to trick his opponents with that educated left foot and accelerate sufficiently past them to put in telling crosses.

But it is in midfield that Ajax can really excite. Arie Haan (23), Johan Neeskens (21) and Gerrie Muhren (26) provide skill and force as an attacking trio. Haan is strong and uses his height and weight well, Neeskens has a good tackle and likes to have a shot at goal and Muhren is the industrious workhorse of the trio, though lacking none of the other two players' technical ability.

Destroyed

At the back the flanking defenders Suurbier (27) and Rudi Krol (23) are both keen to overlap and both can score goals. Krol is the better defender and at times Suurbier can be given the run around by a fast winger. In fact the Bayern Munich left winger Willie Hoffmann destroyed him in the first leg of their quarter-final European Cup tie in Amsterdam but could not finish.

In the middle Barry Hulshoff (26) who missed the game with Bayern through injury is a determined stopper centre back who also ventures upfield dangerously. His twin Horst Blankenburg the German aged 25 has improved enormously since he joined the club midway through the 1970-71 season from TSV Munich 1860—so it gave him special satisfaction when Bayern were beaten.

Blond Blankenburg has now put himself in with a chance of a place in West Germany's World Cup squad for Munich so much did he impress the Germans team manager Helmut Schoen.

Disappointment

In Hulshoff's place against Bayern came Heinz Schilcher another more recent recruit to the Ajax squad and an Austrian by birth. He actually made the first Ajax goal powering in a shot which Josef Maier failed to hold leaving Haan the task of blasting it in.

The one disappointment on the Ajax scene is Jan Mulder signed in the close season from the Belgian club Anderlecht but a Dutch international for all that. Mulder has been injured and has never found anything like form while he has been with Ajax.

Completing the 17 squad is goalkeeper Heinz Stuy probably the most criticised man in the team. Big, bulky and a trifle slow he still manages to stop the ball entering the goal and is less likely to throw a simple one in the back of the net. Like most average continental goalkeepers he prefers to punch rather than catch but is usually able to deal with the ball on the ground adequately. In reserve Ajax can call on goalkeeper Seis Wever (25) midfield man Arnold Muhren (21) brother of Gerrie and striker Gerrie Kleton (19).

It may be interesting to note that last season Ajax played 48 League and cup matches and in addition to the players already mentioned also utilised the services of Ruud Suurendonk and Dick Van Dijk both now with French clubs.

Ajax big weaknesses are in goal, right back and the attack relies overmuch on Cruyff. But they more than make up for this by the virility of the midfield trio as attackers and the ability to attack with ten players if necessary.

A word, too, about manager Stefan Kovacs who is to leave the club at the end of the season and return to his native Rumania after two short but successful years. It was Kovacs who turned a good team into a better one.

His successor is the virtually unknown outside Holland that is George Knobel from MVV Maastricht. He has an unenviable task trying to follow what could be a team which has achieved a hat-trick of European Cup successes.

To end on a further note of statistics, Ajax have used 50 players exactly in their 57 European cup games to date. Number 50 was Schilcher. Cryuff scored Holland's 100th and 200th European cup goals respectively in September 1967 against Real Madrid and in May 1972 against Inter-Milan. Suurbier, Krol, Hulshoff, Neeskens, Gerrie Muhren, Cruyff, Swart, Mulder and Keizer are all full Dutch internationals. And so on.

Martin Tyler joined a number of British managers on the

Amsterdam Express...

I DON'T suppose so many managers, coaches and scouts had descended on Luton since Malcolm Macdonald stopped brandishing his left foot in the vicinity. But on Wednesday March 7, the local airport was the jumping off point for a charter flight of footballing philosophers seeking to measure the qualities of Ajax in the first leg of their European Cup tie against Bayern Munich.

It wasn't surprising the English football would be represented at the game. Our much cherished insularity has slowly dissipated. But what was amazing was the volume of the traffic.

Domestically the game was far from convenient; the transfer deadline loomed just 24 hours away and promotion and relegation pressures had already begun to bubble. Nevertheless Freddie Goodwin and Don Howe were both on the plane; Dave Sexton, Ron Greenwood, Bertie Mee and the Leicester City coach Bill Dodgin also represented Division One.

But the upper echelons held no monopoly. George Petchey and Peter Angell came from Orient; Fulham, Portsmouth and Oxford United were also there, as was the Northern Ireland and Hull team manager Terry Neill. Lawrie McMenemy of Third Division Grimsby Town spoke for them all, admitting: "I don't suppose I'll be ever able to sign Beckenbauer or Cruyff. I doubt if they would fancy Cleethorpes. But I'm here to learn. There may be a throw-in or a free-kick we can use."

Advantage

For journalists it was like Miami Beach, a bevy of the game's top thinkers totally ensnared with nowhere to hide at 20,000 feet. Among others, the B.B.C. happily took full advantage sending interviewer Barry Davies and his camera crew scuttling up and down the aisle more often than the drinks trolley—and unfortunately usually in its way.

On the outward flight the cross-examination was confined in deference to the purpose of the trip. But on the return hop there were no holds barred as the seat-belted managers were bombarded from all sides on every footballing chestnut that one could think of in an hour.

It took a forgery scare at Gate C of Amsterdam's Olympic Stadium to provide the only threat to the days arrangements. Just thirty minutes before the kick-off our party stood the wrong side of that gate with apparently little opportunity of being admitted through the one turnstile that was allowing access at the rate of a body every couple of minutes.

This called for pressure. Freddie Goodwin and Lawrie McMenemy, both solidly over six-foot, led the charge, the extrovert Third Division manager exhorting all around him with cries of, "Come on. It's always like this at Grimsby."

Tommy Lawrence, the organiser of the trip, who was never known to shirk a physical challenge during his time as the England amateur centre-forward, lent his weight to the cause. Ron Tindall and Jimmy Dickinson weren't far behind. Over twenty men at the top of the profession suddenly became the man in the street as everyone surged at the entrance.

It worked. Within two minutes the officials admitted defeat. A large gate opened before us and the triumphant McMenemy led us into the stadium. It made you proud to be British—proud that is until a group of Dutch fans, recognising our nationality, took pains to point out areas on the perimeter of the ground wrecked by Arsenal fans last year.

Professionals

The game did not disappoint. Never great—even Ajax's purple spell owed much to Maier's failings—it always maintained interest, especially for the professionals. Their enthusiasm took the form unelaborate gestures of the hand and quiet phrases from the corner of the mouth; rarely anything more animated.

From the final whistle until touchdown the cross-questioning intensified. The most apt description of the play came from Don Howe who saw it as "a huge game of basketball. As soon as one side lost the ball they all dropped back into the penalty area, and the opposition could carry the ball right up to thirty yards from goal with very little pressure on them. Just like a basket ball player can take the ball forward until he meets pressure around the net."

Yet the plane echoed with praise for Ajax, particularly the three dominating midfield players Haan, Neeskens and Muhren. In front of men with the power to influence British football Ajax had justified the tag of the best club side in Europe. But don't expect the wind of change to blow too strong.

Don Howe, ever the realist, soon had his finger on a factor that mitigated in the Dutch teams favour: "I've just looked in the match programme and seen some of Ajax's results. They win quite often by eight and nine goals. That breeds confidence—the confidence that encourages players like Muhren to go for the sort of volley he scored with to-night. Our league is so competitive, there are no easy games. As a manager it is a day to day task to keep up the players confidence. That's no problem if you win comfortably most weeks."

A second basic difference is the system and style of play. Bill Dodgin admitted: "I don't think the English fans could stand the rigours of football based on man-to-man marking. We recognise effort and the quality of fighting for every ball. Conceding ground like Ajax and Bayern did in defence is not in our character. Like it or not physical qualities are appreciated.

Blankenburg of Ajax.

"Take the supreme skill of Ajax away and you are left with a boring chessboard game."

From the next seat Lawrie McMenemy added: "Even with the Ajax skills, I don't think the fans would stand this stop-start type of play."

I could see what he was getting at, but what a thought to ponder as English clubs try to topple Ajax from their throne—I needed the free glass of champagne courteously provided by the B.B.C. as compensation for Barry Davies once more interrupting the drinks trolley while he began another tour of the plane.

FOOTBALL IS A BORE SUGGESTS OSBORNE

by BRIAN MARSHALL

John Osborne.

THERE is a popular opinion, which is gathering support every week, that everything in the game of soccer is not what it should be. People are becoming disenchanted with the sport to the degree that at spectator level they are staying away from matches in great droves.

This is a problem not just appertaining in the Football League or Scottish League. Many counties report the decline of spectator interest. Numerous reasons have been expounded in the past as to why this should have occured.

Besides the obvious fact that there is now too much soccer being played these days, which is making the fan match-drunk, there are also several other aspects of the sport which, if added together, might explain the present malady.

Problems do exist and it is no use anyone putting their head in the sand and hoping they will just fly away. This was never a cure for anything and it will certainly not resolve the gigantic question mark being placed against top class soccer.

It is therefore interesting to hear that John Osborne, who was persuaded to return to West Bromwich Albion after a lengthy absence from the game, was not very pleased or enthusiastic about his first senior appearance for nearly twelve months, following the 1-1 home draw against Chelsea.

After the match he said: "The game is still a bore. It did not excite me to be playing Division one football again for Albion."

International level

Osborne claims that soccer is now a game being played by robots and the blame can be attributed to a large degree to the coaches and managers in the game today. They have become so stereotyped in their approach to the game that the flair and spontaneity has disappeared from the teams at club and international level.

Teams now appear pre-occupied with destruction of the opposition in such a way that there is no enjoyment for the fans. This may appear to be a very harsh assessment of the game in general but I do not think it is a mere coincidence that Ajax are currently enjoying so much success on the Continent.

Admittedly they are the top club in Holland and that attendances in that country are very poor for the run of the mill games. But I believe that it is more than significant that not so long ago professional soccer in Holland did not flourish as it did in such countries as England.

The result is that they have not become so orientated as the British, Italians and Germans. Their games have been allowed to flourish freely from the grass-roots without any inhibitions.

In consequence they have appeared on the scene with the freshness of youth which quickly flourishes because of the very fact that they can improvise in most situations. This is in sharp contrast to the regimented play of so many of the teams at league level in the Football League.

The tactics of most teams are a carbon copy of the opposition with the result that one match is often very much the same as the previous game. A stalemate quickly develops and this is sadly to the detriment of the sport in general.

A case in point was that West Bromwich Albion-Chelsea match. An ordinary enough game which was only vital to Albion in their fight for Division One survival.

Yet the game developed along familiar lines. Neither side possessed the skill to outwit the other and both goals came from so called set pieces.

The goals were the direct result of free-kicks and this very fact adds strength to the argument that the individual skill is being stifled out of the game. Time and time again this season I have seen numerous goals resulting from such situations.

Blackboard strategy

This latest development comes from the slowing down of the game and does nothing to enhance the sport. It is also a sad commentary that with this odd exception, the general flow of the game has been nullified by the blackboard strategy of the coaches.

A new breed of player is now coming into the game. Coaching has infiltrated into schools and it is extremely common, I am told, to see teams line up at kick-off in a defensive formation.

What chance has the professional game got of producing some exciting players of the future when this situation exists at the schoolboy level?

I can remember my own schooldays, which included a match against the late Duncan Edwards, who was possibly the best player produced in post-war years, that this kind of regimentation never existed.

The game was a joy to play and not a bore as West Bromwich Albion's goalkeeper, John Osborne, claims it is today. Unfortunately, there is no over-night solution. It's a complex problem which will require commendable foresight and ingenuity before it can be rectified.

VAT 'KILL PROV

THE introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) in Britain, on April 1, could have far reaching consequences for the future of many professional clubs in this country. The new tax, levied at 10 per cent of total income, will bring the United Kingdom in line with the Common Market countries, where this form of taxation has already been in operation for some time, or, as in Britain, has just become law.

This new liability, called in some quarters the "killer tax", may well prove for many footballing "Limited Companies" to be the last push into oblivion. Only a dozen or so clubs, out of a total of 92 members of the Football League, are operating at a profit, while many are heavily in debt. At present, a number of struggling clubs refuse to face the facts. Yet in many cases their financial set-up is so absurd, that only the generosity of their supporters clubs, the benevolence of private sponsors, or simply the philanthropy of their chairmen and directors is keeping them alive.

Campaign

If VAT can only be met by raising admission prices still further, then this measure together with the galloping inflation could put out of existence most of the poorer Third and Fourth Division clubs and ultimately destroy the League and the structure of professional football in Britain. The campaign to remove VAT has the backing of the FA and Football League, as well as all major ruling bodies in similarly threatened sports. But only last May, despite various passionate pleas to the government, these moves have failed to extract a favourable response. In fact the House of Commons defeated a motion to exempt sport from VAT by 255 votes to 232.

Admission prices were already raised by 33 per cent this season from 30p to 40p, to cover VAT. But the slump in attendances, plus the rise in costs and expenses, make a further increase of perhaps 10p next season appear unavoidable. It is estimated that VAT will claim some £2 million net during the first year. Only amateur clubs, who do not collect money at the gate, might be better off, since all types of soccer equipment should be cheaper.

Until 1958, British clubs had to pay entertainment tax. This was abolished to help in the first place those smaller clubs fighting for their very existence. But since then, soccer has been saddled with two other taxes: Purchase Tax (P.T.) and Selective Employment Tax (SET). These will now be replaced by VAT. Under the old method of taxation, a big First Division club who takes say £500,000 at the gate in a season, has been required to pay £3,000 in P.T. plus £2,400 in SET. This would leave a profit of roughly £20,000. But when from April 1 Value Added Tax claims 10 per cent of gross takings, the club will surrender £50,000 to the Treasury! In other words, a profit of £20,000 could be turned into a £30,000 loss!

New tax

No wonder that even some of the richest clubs in this country are worried about the effects of the new tax, which threatens to swallow most of their earnings. In addition, it will take away the funds which the clubs are holding to improve the safety measures in their stadia as recommended by the government appointed commission and contained in the Wheatley Report. A spokesman for Leicester City said: "VAT will be a blow from which British football may never fully recover."

by ARTHUR ROTMIL

And Mr. Denis Follows, the secretary of the Football Association, added this warning: "It will have an extremely serious effect on football in this country. I can foresee the early demise of a number of clubs. In Lancashire you can see a quarter of the clubs going to the wall, chiefly because of the fact that it is so easy to get to the big First Division grounds."

Strongest

English soccer followers are proud of their claims of having "the strongest, largest and most competitive League in the world." But the truth is that the Third and Fourth Divisions carry a lot of deadwood, not just in the playing sense, but financially speaking. Some of these clubs led by ambitious but plainly misguided parochial groups, cannot pay their way, yet they obstinately cling to a professional set up which is absurdly uneconomic and insupportable. Most of them struggle on gates of under 5,000, which works out at roughly £1,000 receipts per club. Out of that amount must come wages, bonuses, rates, advertising and other running costs.

It is obvious that these Leagues must now seriously consider the return to regionalised divisions—mainly to cut travelling costs—and the placing of their playing staff on a part-time basis. Other drastic measures which are currently circulating in the British press, like abolishing some of the extra competitions (Watney Cup, Anglo-Italian tournament, or the Texaco Cup) may not have the desired effect. Nor will four up and four down be of help, especially to those "going down", and neither will a substantial reduction in televised football persuade the public to flock back to the stadia.

But I do feel that the football pools in this country are getting their programme cheaply. Last season they collected £169 million, of which £54 million was paid out to the winners, whilst £56 million went in taxation. But how much of that was given back to sport? Incidentally, those WORLD SOCCER readers who are also pools punters may laugh at those British Pools companies who claim their current £½ million pay outs as "world records". Last May a man in Brazil won £770,000 on the pools. No individual winner or syndicate in Britain has ever received anywhere near that amount. In Spain, for example, over £1.8 million have been ploughed back into football during the past three years. But in this country it is a national scandal that the Pools companies do not contribute more cash to the sport, out of which they make their handsome living.

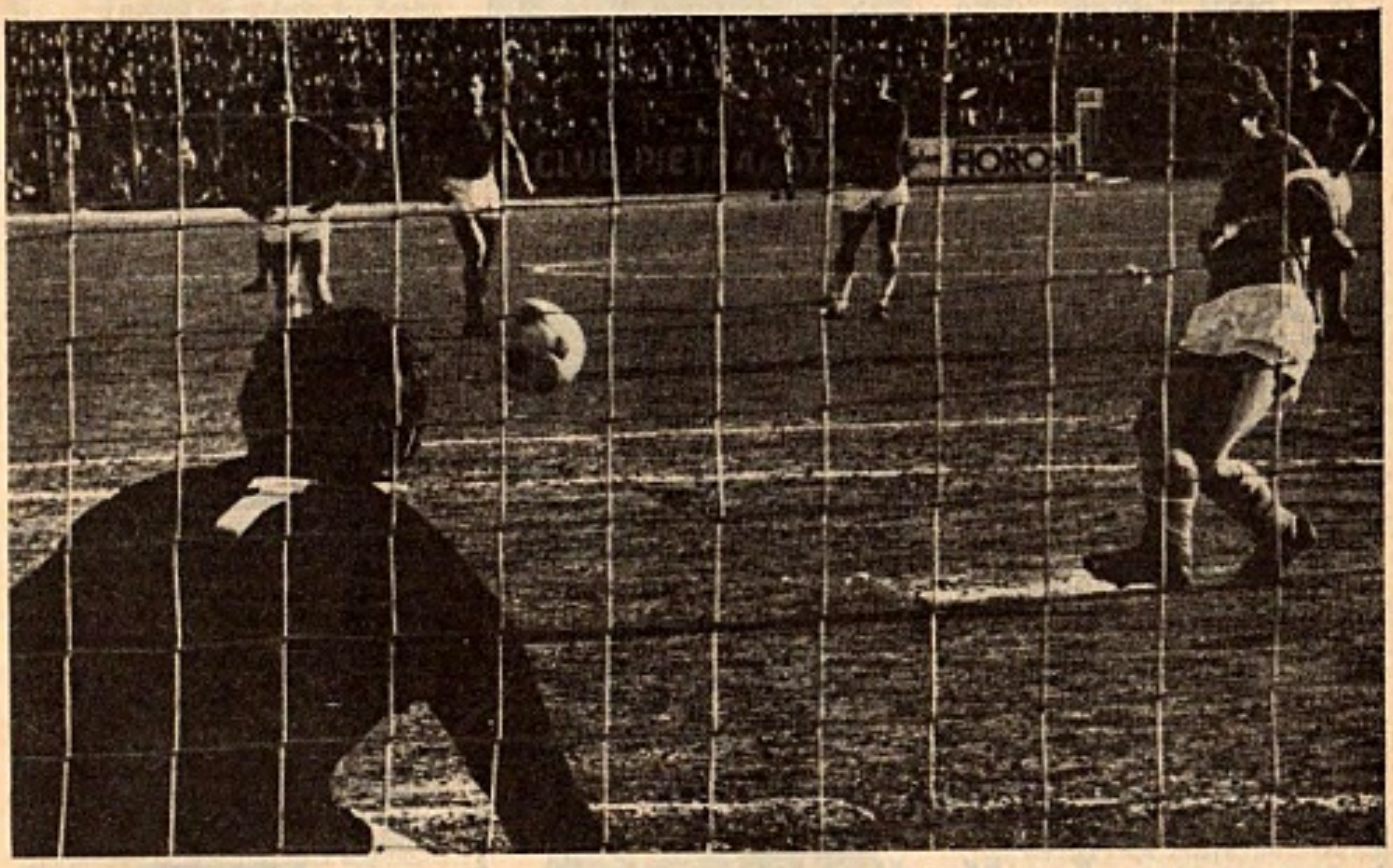
Devalued

The English Football League receive from the pools an annual commission of £1 million for the copyright of their fixtures. When this contract was signed in 1970, this seemed an acceptable fee. But since then, inflation has already devalued this amount and the agreement will not expire until 1980 . . . The League's recent plea to the government, for £5 million as their share, out of the estimated £56 million the Treasury took last year from the Pools in taxes, was met with a cold shoulder.

What is the position in other countries? Well, when the great debate on the implications of VAT was first launched, some British sports-writers appeared to be under the mistaken impression that this tax was not payable in other Common Market countries. This is of course quite inaccurate as in fact German clubs, for instance, not only pay VAT but also various other taxes which are unknown in Britain but which are crippling German football. Their clubs are in fact compelled to give up roughly 40 per cent of their income at the gate!

Most clubs in the *Bundesliga*—the only professional League in Germany—are like many of their English counterparts,

ER TAX' WILL E DAMAGING



Mescetti scores a penalty for Verona against Roma in an Italian league match. In Italy VAT is considered a "saviour tax".

heavily in debt. Various attempts to get exemption or some relief from their liabilities have so far failed to get a hearing from a government which spends more money on sports subsidies than most countries, but which has shown itself unsympathetic toward professional football. As an example of the financial burden, here is a breakdown of expenses incurred by the German champions Bayern Munich from their top gate this season. The match against Borussia Monchengladbach drew roughly 75,000 spectators into Munich's Olympic stadium, who paid about £100,000 in gate money. Admission prices ranged from 65p to stand, to just over £3 for the best seat.

Value Added Tax (VAT)	11 per cent	£11,700
Entertainment Tax	5 " "	£5,360
Stadium rent	10 " "	£10,680
Gate levy to the German FA	6 " "	£6,370
Government building tax	4 " "	£4,250
Match organising costs	5 " "	£5,300
Expenses total	41 per cent	£43,520

In order to meet the high costs of running a fully professional club, especially the wages and bonuses of their famous stars, Bayern are forced to accept playing commitments far beyond those experienced by clubs in other countries, including England. The club, who incidentally performed in 21 games in the space of 38 days before the season had even started (!), now average well over 70 matches per year in order to remain solvent.

Jubilant

In complete contrast to the already hard hit and the about-to-suffer British, the Italians are now jubilant. Surprisingly though, their clubs will actually benefit from the introduction of VAT! In Italy the existing heavy taxes have been replaced with VAT as from January 1. Clubs will gain forthwith from the new taxation structure which is calculated to save them a total of £1 million spread over the three categories of full professional, part-time and amateur clubs. Here it must be pointed out that Italian clubs were perhaps the most comprehensively taxed in Europe. Until now, they were paying a so called IGE-tax, equivalent to a type of turnover tax. The present reductions will vary from 5 to 11 per cent off the scaled admission prices. By way of an example, a ticket which costs there 800 Lire (roughly 55p), carried up till January 1, a tax of nearly 21 per cent. Under VAT this will be halved to 10 per cent! And despite a 44 per cent increase in admission charges this season, gates are booming in Italy and are well up on last year!

Strange to think that Britain and Italy are both members of the Common Market. Yet VAT is condemned here as the "Killer Tax", but over there it is hailed as the "Saviour Tax" . . .

NEWSDESK

FRANCHI WINS UEFA ELECTION

THE new President of UEFA is Doctor Artemio Franchi of Italy. He was elected in at the Rome Congress with an absolute majority and will serve until 1974. He obtained 21 votes out of a possible 32.

Sandor Barcs of Hungary received seven votes and Denis Follows the English FA secretary had four. The fourth candidate Jos Coler of Holland withdrew before the voting began.

Dr. Franchi succeeds Gustav Wiederkehr of Switzerland who died last year after a decade in office. Next year the entire executive of UEFA will be renewed.

The congress also voted against an Argentine proposal that the number of teams participating in the final stages of the 1978 World Cup should be increased from 16 to 20. The vote is a guide line for the FIFA meeting later on.

FIFA have banned member nations from sending teams to China until the Chinese agree to rejoin the world body.

"We have done everything we can to encourage China to come back into FIFA," said Sir Stanley Rouse, President of the International Football Federation, "but the only answer we can get from China is — expel Taiwan."

Sir Stanley announced too that he would stand for re-election to the Presidency next year and later criticised African countries for obstructing the body's efforts to help end apartheid in South African sport.

He defended the Executive Committee's recent decision to allow England and Brazil to compete in the South African Games which was originally made on the understanding that they would play against teams of mixed race.

The opening games of the 1974 World Cup finals in West Germany involving the hosts and defending champions Brazil will be played in Frankfurst on June 13 with a kick-off time at 1600 hours.

Other kick-off times will be staggered so that television of West Germany's matches will not interfere with attendances at other games.

It is understood that 2,129,000 tickets would be available for the 38 final round matches. Of these 1,720,000 have been earmarked for advance sales from April 2, with 1,250,000 allotted to West Germany and the remaining 470,000 for sale abroad.

The USSR has announced a plan to end drawn matches in the League next season which will allow penalty kicks to be taken at the end of 90 minutes if the scores are level.

The winners of the penalty deciders will be awarded one point. Two points remain for the winners of the match of course after normal time.

The Russians are taking a 17 man squad to play Bulgaria in preparation for their remaining World Cup qualifying matches against Eire and France. If they succeed in getting through this section they will have to meet the winners of the South American Group Three for a place in the finals in Munich.

A strike of referees in Malta has been called because of violence in a First Division game recently. The Malta Referees Association decided to strike following the enforced flight of an official during a recent game between Valletta and Birkirkara.

He was chased from the ground by supporters of the Valletta team after awarding a penalty against the home side. Rioting fans fought others and damaged the stands.

This is the culmination of several other incidents involving referees and fans.

The Italian Soccer League has fined First Division club Sampdoria £500 for incidents during its League game with Juventus.

They said that the fine had been imposed because of protests to the referee by Sampdoria players and because of Sampdoria fans who threw bottles and other missiles.

The trouble began when the referee refused to award a penalty to Sampdoria who were beaten 1-0.

Goals continue to be at a premium in Turkey. Of the 16 club First Division the top scorers are second placed Fenerbahce who have managed 28 in 19 games. Leaders Galatasaray are second with 26.

The leaders have the best defensive record having conceded only six goals. But Besiktas take some beating for negativity. In 19 games they have drawn 10 times and their goal record reads for 8 against 10!

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WORLD SOCCER INTERVIEW

Josef Masopust talking to Gregory Tesser

My goal in '62 was best

I SUPPORT the 4-3-3 system and am also an admirer of contemporary English football. But unfortunately, although I know that this system has worked to good effect throughout the world, I was never allowed to utilise this tactical line-up during my playing days, because in Czechoslovakia we have never played in this formation because we do not possess the players for it. My opinion of the Czech players is one which I've gained from my football experiences.

My career began at the age of fourteen in the small town of Most in the North of Bohemia, when I became a member of the club SK Most/SK—Sport club. At that time Most did not belong to Bohemia. You see, it was the time of the Second World War and Most was part of the Sudetenland which belonged to Germany. Only after the war was football recognized as a major sport.

At the age of sixteen I played for the SK Most youth team, and occasionally for the first team. At this period of time SK Most were a third division side, but we were soon promoted. In the team I met Bedrich Vacek, one of Czechoslovakia's outstanding players, who played for his country before the Second World War. Vacek was a player of outstanding technique, and he had a great influence on the development of my game.

Transferred

From 1948, when I was seventeen, I played regularly for the SK Most first team and two years later I was transferred from Most to first division Technomat Teplice. At Teplice I realised for the first time that first division football was to be my life. I also met at Teplice my future friend, Ladislav Novak, who later went with me to Dukla.

During this time we had a very good team, and for a long period we headed the first division table, but at the end of the season we finished third.

Army side

In 1952 Ladislav Novak and I started our army service, and we played for ATK/Army Sport Club in Prague. Later ATK changed their name to UDA—Central House of Army and finally to Dukla. My beginning at ATK was very difficult indeed. I had to compete for a place in the first team with 64 other players, many of whom were members of our national team. Several months after the start of my national service the Minister of Defence, Cepicka, created an army soccer side run on the same basis as any other club.

This side had the same conditions—sometimes better—as the civil clubs. In this way UDA and then Dukla was formed. From the beginning of my football career I have played in every position in the forward line. In point of fact I have never really preferred any position. However, from the year 1954 I played much more often in midfield, and from 1956 I always played in this role.

I gained my first full international cap just after the World Cup in Switzerland where Czechoslovakia performed extremely badly, and subsequently our administrators embarked upon a rebuilding programme. My international debut was against Hungary and we lost 1-4. I played right-half in our 3-2-5 formation and was confronted by Ferenc Puskas and therefore had no chance to scheme in the middle of the field. My most difficult task was in defence, endeavouring to thwart Puskas. After the match I was very tired, but I enjoyed every minute of it, although it was by no means a satisfactory debut!

During the 1955-56 season we became the first and only European country to defeat Brazil when we beat them 1-0 at the giant Maracana Stadium. Around the fifties we adopted the English method of playing. There were, of course, many discussions among the fans and the newspaper critics. In our country there were many opinions about whether we had enough players of class and quality able to adapt to this. Many people did not agree with such things as man-to-man marking, and they remembered our old Czech football style—the so-called "Czech passing".

New style

On top of all this the players didn't know whether this new strategy was better or not. But the development of our soccer progressed and therefore this new system was accepted. But alternatively we had to make this new style of play much easier for us, especially at Dukla. Right-half Svatopluk Pluskal became a twin centre-half and I was given the job of midfield feeder with centre-forward Jaroslav Borovicka.

During the next six years our knowledge of 4-2-4 was very elementary, and it was only the Brazilians in the 1958 World Cup in Sweden who introduced 4-2-4 to the whole world for the first time.

Then we tried to play like the magical Brazilians, but without the proper know-how. We knew that this formation would enable us to improvise much more, but I am afraid the majority of the Czech players are and always have been far too stereotyped!

Calibre

I must say that frankly I love English football. English players know how to fight for every ball, irrespective of the odds against them. And this is the main difference between the Czechoslovakian and English styles.

If I had to choose one of the following systems, namely WM, 4-2-4 and 4-3-3 I think I must say that the best for our soccer would be 4-2-4. After all we cannot select a system without considering the calibre of the players, so we must therefore use a tactical plan which is allied to the skill and to the mentality of the players concerned.

As I have often stated I like 4-3-3, but only as a spectator! Perhaps in my country several clubs could play like this because they have similar forwards to those in England. However, I think that three players in a forward line are not enough—maybe I am just old-fashioned!

When I was playing regularly for Dukla and Czechoslovakia, I tried at all times to stick to my job of creating chances—scoring goals was always secondary to me.

But I still managed to notch 11 goals for my country! And the best? In the 1962 World Cup Final against Brazil in Chile. Unfortunately this goal didn't help us much!

DON ROGERS a thoroughbred... among the workhorses

by BRIAN GLANVILLE

ONE of the salient, and rare, pleasures of the present season has been the arrival of Don Rogers, at long, long last, in the First Division, and the consequent chance to see him regularly in action. At a time of workhorses, cloggers and second raters—whatever strange opinions Sir Alf Ramsey may evince about the improvement in the game—Rogers is refreshingly and incontrovertibly a thoroughbred; *un pura sangue*, as the Italians would have it. He knows it well enough, for all his modesty; he has the true champion's deep awareness of his own quality, even if he has been accused at times of lack of ambition and drive. He reminds me a little bit, in this respect, of another famous winger, Cliff Bastin, who in the early years of his retirement would speak of his own superiority to other wingers of his time with a quiet, convinced detachment.

In the meanwhile, the enigma of Rogers is to some extent the enigma of the Prince of Denmark; why did Rogers, like Hamlet, delay? Why did he spend those long years at Swindon, not arriving in the First Division till this very season, at the age of 27? Dave Mackay, briefly his manager at Swindon, makes no bones about it; had he been Rogers, he would have moved Heaven and Earth, taken whatever intransigent attitude was necessary, to get away.

But Mackay is not Rogers; indeed, they could scarcely be more different, one a tough, Edinburgh Scot, the evident product of a harsh background, the other a Somerset villager, with the delightful, concomitant West Country accent, relaxed, affable and easy going. His explanations of why he stayed with Swindon are significant in themselves: "I'd have had to pack up playing, I think; and that isn't me . . . They wouldn't let me go off my bat. It had to be them. I would have left years ago if it had been me; I had it all sorted out. But when you've got ten directors, you've got a lot of people to convince."

Don Rogers fails to score on this occasion, thwarted by Tottenham's Pat Jennings.

Movement

All this, however, is mere water under the bridge by now. Rogers *is* in the First Division, and showing enough sheer, overflowing talent to make him at last an England player; *pace* the strange and involuted workings of Sir Alf's selection policies. His movement is glorious, his confidence is beating a man and going for goal superbly refreshing in this robot age, when the orthodox winger is a vanishing, if not quite wholly vanished, breed, when the reflex action of the contemporary forward is to lay the ball off and hope for the best.

Concentration

"A lot of people don't sprint, really," he says. "If I get the ball and have room, I like to run with it. A lot of people like to lay it off." These sprints, as he points out, require periods of recuperation. "It's difficult, I think, for someone who does a lot of long running: you can't keep going. If I make two runs in a few minutes, I need a rest. If you run for eighty yards, plus your concentration; if you finish a run like that, you're absolutely shattered."

Among the criticism that have been made of him is that he tends to disappear for long periods from the game. To some extent it is answered by this explanation, yet he admits that in recent seasons, he

"We are not wingers, we're strikers...I've got to score goals..."

Don Rogers with Steve Perryman of Tottenham.

has changed his approach. "We're not wingers, we're strikers. I used to be quite happy to stay on the wing and get the ball, but now I'm not. Four or five years ago, that's all I used to do; go down the wing and cross." Now, as he says, he has "got to score goals."

And what goals they are! Glorious solo runs, of an almost obsolete kind, which have enraptured the fans of Selhurst Park since he arrived there; the kind of runs, and goals, which devastated Manchester United, which took him whirling past the Stoke defenders Marsh and Bloor to beat, ultimately, Farmer.

He has further been criticised for "vanishing" away from home. "They always used to accuse me of that," he says. "That's ridiculous, because I do better away from home than I do at home. If the home team start attacking, it's a lot better."

There is a curious symmetry to his career, in his relationship with Bert Head, the Crystal Palace manager. Head it was—or, to be precise, his father—who discovered him as a village boy, beat off the subsequent competition of Bristol Rovers, and brought him to Swindon. Head it was, again, who ultimately brought him into the haven of the First Division, with Crystal Palace.

Relegated

Rogers, however, sees no, particular shape or destiny to it. "It wouldn't have made any difference who it was, actually; it had to be a First Division club. Palace were bottom of the League, but *that* didn't make any difference, really. If they climbed the table, I got praised, if they were relegated, it was bad luck." Between the period when Head "signed me and the years he was at Swindon" and now there is, Rogers says, a vast difference: "Because I was a young boy then, and he was the big chief.

"Now, I can talk to him as an equal. I get on much better with him, now. He was a very strong man at Swindon, dealing mostly with local boys. He's a changed man since then, dealing in money, big money, dealing with men, not boys. This time he's been lucky; he's got Paddy and Charlie from Chelsea. Nobody could hope to get them for the money he paid for them. That must be the best buy on record."

Rogers has left behind him, in Swindon, a business partner who will continue to run his successful sports goods shops and other interests: "he's always done most of it, anyway." This was another good reason for staying in Swindon, and it's tempting to draw an analogy with Maurice Owen, a former Chindit who became a star centre-forward with the club just after the last war, and stolidly refused to move, though club after leading club pursued him. Ultimately he became a full-back then, when he retired, a trainer there. Owen's case, however, was radically different to the extent that the maximum wage still sombrely existed, and there was little or no economic incentive for him to move.

Strenuous

Rogers, today, feels, understandably enough, that he is at his peak: "I'm fitter now than I ever was; or so it seems to me. I feel I could run a lot more than I ever could; mind you, I've got a lot more to run for." He is taking, too, a more strenuous approach towards his own talents: "I don't really sprint, I don't have to; I should do, really, I probably shall from now on, to keep it. When I'm running, I don't feel I'm that quick; it's only when I see myself on the television."

Nor must one forget his thoughtful and unselfish use of the ball; he is not one of those manic individualists who simply put their head down and run. "I pride myself on that," he says, "use of the ball. When I go home, my wife says, 'You had a bad game, today, you seemed to give the ball away a lot.' I say, 'Well, you tell me when I gave the ball away.' If I give it away more than once, I think I've had a bad game."

Temperament

Could he reproduce, for England, the extraordinary form he has been showing at Selhurst Park? One cannot be sure; yet surely he is worth a chance? International football is a strange crucible; you can never really tell, so to speak, till it has happened. After all, even Stanley Matthews was written off by Geoffrey Simpson, the Sports Columnist of the *Daily Mail*, in 1934, as "lacking the big match temperament."

Rogers has his moments of self-doubt; who doesn't? ("You do lose faith in your own ability at times.") But when talent is so short, England's problems so great, whatever the fiasco of Hampden, wouldn't it be common sense to try him?

by ERIC THORNTON

REVIE WORKS ORACLE

LEEDS United are nearing the end of yet another tremendous winter-long battle, and many folk are now beginning to wonder about the likely casualties of Father Time before the new team sheets go up for next season.

That's not a sensational suggestion, for almost all clubs have to examine queries against the continuing ability of recognised stars between the closure and re-opening of different campaigns.

With regard to the Yorkshiremen, it could be the fade-out for Jack Charlton and Billy Bremner, though no-one could deny that although both are in the thirties they have stayed the pace well this time round, even on the heaviest of grounds and in the most testing conditions.

None of the fans are looking forward to their retirement time, however, because ever since "The Giraffe" left the little mining town of Ashington, and that "great bloody hole in the ground", and Bremner was the original spitting wildcat, these two have given everything to the club.

But whatever changes may gradually take place, I'm ready to forecast that Don Revie's team will be in the queue again for prizes, keenly contesting League and Cup honours while more teenagers are being introduced from the production line.

Attention

Right from the first day in charge, the former England forward who lent his name to the famous Revie plan of the fifties, has always paid special attention to scouting and coaching, and constantly impressed on me this aspect of managership.

Having had the experience of playing in great and struggling teams, and noting the principal reasons for the difference between success and failure, the Leeds boss never forgets to insure for unexpected calls.

Now, having won the League championship, FA Cup, League Cup, and Inter-Cities Fairs Cup, his eyes are firmly fixed on the European Cup, and it's safe to say he won't be happy till it's on show in the club's board room.

All the necessary talent has been assembled for when they do go into Europe on that particular trail, and Revie has now accumulated the expertise so vital for planning an assault of that character.

His boys have got the styles to match any occasion and, while able to produce vintage, flowing soccer can also play it as tough as anybody when necessary, a fact which Derby County will probably underline.

Of course, you've got to be able to give and take to win the medals, these days, when the cash stakes are so great for both clubs and players, and the customers want nothing short of success.

That's why The Don drives himself so hard, and everyone else, too. For, having built up a wonderful club image, and wooed the crowds back to a ground which only a dozen years ago was depressingly empty, he wants the menu to stay appetising.

It's been an awful long push from those first days when, as a lean, hungry-looking, long-legged young man he parked his old car outside Old Trafford, among the Jags, Bentleys, Aston-Martins, Mercedes and Rovers of the struggling Manchester United stars, and walked upstairs to Matt Busby's office for sound advice about the new job.

A little more than a decade later, he's got a wonderful team. As any team must be which contains such as Billy Bremner, Jack Charlton, Eddie Gray, Paul Reeney, Mick Jones, Peter Lorimer, and Allan Clarke.

There were doubters when Leeds forked out a record £165,000 for Clarke, in the summer of 1969, but this rather slim-built six-footer of deceptive laziness has the knack of being in the right spot at the right time. Definitely, one of big soccer's greatest match winners.

So Revie should be happy. Yet there'll be no danger of him losing the human touch, as he proved to me one day while chatting in his little office underneath Elland Road's main stand.

A woman's shadow slid silently past the frosted window, and he called out: "Bring us two cups of tea along, luv". But she went on her way without hearing, and, shrugging his broad shoulders with a half smile, and waving his upturned palms like Uncle Joseph, he said, without the least trace of annoyance: "I'll get two myself because maybe she's busier than me."

Leeds United manager Don Revie.

Questions and answers with GUNTER NETZER

NO MOVE YET, BUT PERHAPS AFTER '74

GUNTER NETZER, the brilliant German forward, now hailed as one of the world's greatest schemers, has been holding court in Spain recently. The Spaniards may be vegetating—football wise—in comparative obscurity now, but their journalistic fraternity have not forgotten how to handle big stars. After all, not so long ago, they boasted here some of the finest performers in the world like Di Stefano, Puskas, or Kubala (now national team manager), and not overlooking home bred aces like Suarez or Gento, to mention but a few.

When Netzer led Borussia Monchengladbach, earlier this season, to a brilliant exhibition of soccer skills in Barcelona, the Spaniards were in raptures. If only the current ban on imports of foreign players were not in existence, their clubs would be falling over themselves in bidding for superstar Netzer.

Favourites

Now, any such plans must be shelved at least till the World Cup of 1974 is over. Not only from the Spanish side, but also because Netzer wants above all to play for his country which stages the final series and which is rated as one of the favourites. Such a possibility is tempting enough for any footballer, not least because as a "world champion" his market value would soar bringing lucrative contracts, hefty signing-on fees, fringe benefits etc. etc. etc. By joining a foreign club before the World Cup with its exciting challenge, might put the player out of reckoning with the national squad.

Netzer is fully aware of his commercial potential. He is a bright, intelligent and eloquent boy and he knows exactly what to say at the right time. He doesn't need any agents, for he is his own best adviser. The Spanish Pressmen were curious to know if Gunter Netzer—by the way, he spells his first name without an "h"—makes his living exclusively from playing football.

Netzer: "No, I own a bar, a discotheque and I am also engaged in Public Relations."

Conducted by ARTHUR ROTMIL

But when pressed for details of his income, from soccer alone, he was cagey although it is no secret that he earns just over £900 a month with Borussia. The rest of the interview went like this:

Question: Are there any footballers in Germany who earn more?

Answer: "I believe Beckenbauer and Muller are paid more, because they belong to a wealthier club."

Illusions

Q.: Wouldn't you in view of this, consider leaving Borussia?

A.: "No, I am not thinking of joining another German club at all. Until 1974 I am staying home, but after that I might contemplate moving to Spain or Italy. I hear that in Spain the players are extremely well paid."

Q.: But then you will be 29 years old, wouldn't it be rather late to make a fresh start abroad?

A.: "I don't think so. A player is only old when he loses his illusions about the game and has become stale for lack of incentives. I love football and will never be satiated with it."

Q.: When do you intend to end your career?

A.: "If I don't receive any offers from Spain or Italy in 1974, then I might pack it in and start concentrating on my various businesses. Borussia will probably have enough of me by then and it is quite logical to assume that they will be looking for new faces."

Q.: Which footballer have you admired most of all?

A.: "The Brazilian Pele. He is truly incomparable."

Q.: What is the secret of your superb technique, of your mathematically accurate passes and of your astonishing switches of direction?

A.: "It is a product of hours of practice individually and of training with my club colleagues."

System

Q.: Do you know that a player of your class is paid three times as much in Spain as in Germany?

A.: "That must be connected with your system here, though I don't understand how the clubs in Spain can afford to pay so much."

Q.: You don't seem to think that this is right?

A.: "Well, yes, if the rewards are so high all the better for the players. But I do feel that this is an awful lot of money. But perhaps Spanish footballers play more games?"

A.: On average about 50 games per season, including League, Cup and international matches.

Netzer.: "I took part last season in over 100 games."

Q.: Would you like to join the CF Barcelona in 1974?

A.: "It is a tempting possibility which I shall consider with the utmost seriousness."

PORTUGAL LACK OF GENUINE

...but are one of the most improved countries in Europe says ERIC BATTY

ON paper the Portuguese national side is one of the most improved in Europe and under the guidance of former Benfica star Jose Augusto there can be no doubt that they have produced a revival. Augusto took over from Gomez da Silva a little more than a year ago and since then in 11 matches they have been beaten only once.

This solitary defeat was no disgrace, coming against Brazil in the final of the Independence Cup they staged last year. If Brazil are no longer the power they were it was still quite an achievement to play through the preliminary stages to reach the final . . . and hold out until Jairzinho headed the only goal in the last minute.

As one of the unseeded teams in the tournament in Brazil, the Portuguese spent more than a month there. This was Augusto's first opportunity to weld his players into a team and he obviously did a power of good. Earlier, Augusto had announced that Eusebio did not figure in his future plans though until now it remains clear that no suitable substitute is on hand and Eusebio remains.

Indeed, in Portugal's last outing away to France at the new Parc des Princes in Paris it was Eusebio who represented the difference between the two sides. His two goals—one from a penalty—gave Portugal their first win over France (in seven matches) since 1946. Now 31 years old and with a Portuguese record 61 caps to his credit, Eusebio is at once Augusto's ace card and his biggest problem.

Natural

Fundamentally Augusto is not amongst the modern managers who believe in defensive football and he has tried to develop a national side that will project the natural skills that are inherent in the Portuguese game. These are still considerable though there is an absence of world class performers in defence and attack comparable with Coluna and Germano who were the key figures a few years ago.

Above all there is a shortage of front players who can get goals and this is apparent even in the Portuguese league which is noted more for its skill than hard tackling and intimidation. Apart from Eusebio, the current leading scorers are Yazalde (Sporting) and Flavio (FC Porto) and being Argentinian and Brazilian respectively they are no help to Augusto.

However, the achievements of the last 15 months have given Augusto a certain standing which he has been able to put to good purpose. For the first time he has been able to organise regular get-togethers and the national squad work out together under Augusto and his assistant Peres Bandeira almost every Wednesday in Lisbon.

The backbone of the national squad is provided by the Lisbon clubs with no fewer than 11 Benefica players regularly on call and half a dozen more from their neighbours Sporting and Belenenses who are much improved under Alejandro Scopelli this season. Vitoria Setubal also provide two players—full back Francisco Rebelo and midfield player Octavio Machado—and based only thirty miles from Lisbon this presents no difficulties. The only real problems in attending the training sessions are incurred by the two FC Porto players Pavao . . . Fernando Neves, who plays in midfield, and centre forward Abel.

The successes achieved under Augusto have created a new morale within the squad and a will to win that has been absent since Portugal's heady success in the 1966 World Cup. Bulgaria are clearly their major rivals standing in the way of their qualification for 1974 and while Augusto, who saw them recently against Greece admits a respect for them, I suspect he has more to fear from Northern Ireland.

Selection

In their last match against France the Portuguese looked a very compact side with a great deal of flair. With nothing at stake, Augusto experimented by omitting the Benfica captain Antonio Simoes from his original selection. A former orthodox winger, Simoes has been converted into a midfield player much as Augusto himself was.

Facing a side that played to a rigid 4-4-2 formation the Portuguese were able to reproduce all their skills and with an exhibition of skilful, controlled football they dominated the proceedings. This was particularly true in the first half when left back Adolfo was allowed to move up into attacking positions so frequently that he looked more like an orthodox winger.

The real strength of the side lies in midfield where the leading figure is the Benfica star Toni (Antonio Oliveira). Now 25 years old, Toni has improved enormously and he patrols the midfield regions in the manner of Mario Coluna. Skilful and intelligent, he has the priceless knack of intercepting the ball in midfield; the ability and confidence to take people on and the skill to provide an endless flow of constructive passes to his colleagues in attack.

Alongside him the promising Pavao and the experienced Simoes give Augusto a solid midfield base of skill and understanding on which to build.

In attack right winger Nene is a player of obvious ability who has the skill to get past his opponent consistently and also has pace. Unfortunately he is not by instinct a goalscorer and these days a winger is required to do more than plough a furrow up and down his flank and send in a stream of crosses this is particularly true in a side that lacks power in the air and aggressive qualities in the penalty area.

The other wingers available to Augusto are the Sporting pair Joaquim Dinis and Chico (Francisco Faria) but they too lack real penetration and have suffered a general loss of confidence with the decline in their club's fortunes this season. Nene is undoubtedly the pick of the wingers available though Chico gets more goals at club level, but the key to Portugal's fortunes lies in the finishing power of the central strikers.

Candidate

Here there are several candidates though no one really outstanding. Against France two were tried—one in each half—Abel the former Benfica player now with Porto and Artur Jorge though neither made any real impact on the defence orientated French. The third candidate is the former Setubal striker Vitor Baptista now with Benfica.

Abel is the more skilful though Jorge is a better all rounder and Baptista lacks pace since receiving a troublesome ankle injury a year ago. In the background is the 20-year-old Benfica striker Jordao who promises to be another in the Eusebio mould. But though very talented Jordao has so far failed to reproduce his wealth of skills at the highest competive level.

There can be no doubt that Benfica represent the biggest single force within the Portuguese game. It was they who initiated Portugal's rise from being a mediocre football nation to one of parity—

CK MARKSMAN NE QUALITY...

and for a time in the early sixties even supremacy. Champions six times in the last seven seasons they recently made sure of the current championship at a stage when they had not even dropped a point.

To see Benfica in training is to be impressed by the depth of real talent they have available and within their own sphere they are able to stamp their skills on the game with such authority that all opposition is overcome. Yet at the highest level this very supremacy becomes a weakness and it is significant that they have not made any real impression in the European Cup for some time.

With Benfica providing most of the talent for the national side their failings are transported into the international arena. They did not show up in the recent match with France nor indeed against Brazil last year but they were thrown into stark relief when Benfica met Derby County in the European Cup early this season.

In defence there is a general lack of ability to contain aggressive opponents in individual duels and under sustained pressure particularly in the air the Portuguese are vulnerable. Goalkeeper Jose Henrique epitomises this general weakness for though good on the shot with reflex saves and a constructive distributor of the ball he lacks the ability to deal confidently with high crosses.

Experience

In the Portuguese game . . . as in Brazil, the high cross is unpopular and seldom seen. Skilful players, the Portuguese by nature prefer to build their attacks and carry them right through to the penalty area playing the ball to feet. Thus in league football the Portuguese defenders are rarely subjected to high crosses aimed at determined, physically powerful spearheads and Henrique and his co-defenders lacking this kind of experience are regularly found wanting when subjected to real pressure of this kind.

This lack of combativity is general throughout Portugal and though the level of individual ability is high their skills rapidly begin to fade under physical pressure. Thus at both ends of the pitch there is a lack of discipline and determination where it counts most—in the respective penalty areas.

It is for this reason that despite the progress made under Augusto the Portuguese chances of qualifying for the World Cup remain doubtful In a straight fight against the Bulgarians they could conceivably succeed but though the Irish have virtually lost their chance of qualifying after being beaten in Sofia and surprisingly losing in Cyprus they could still hold the key. British based and accustomed to the hurly burly in the penalty areas the Irish will present a real challenge to Portugal if they are able to field anything like their full strength side.

Portugal manager Jose Augusto.

Augusto's greatest need is for a dominant goalkeeper and a really aggressive centre forward who can attract a great deal of attention away from Eusebio and give the tremendously talented inside forward the space he needs in which to work and produce his high-powered shooting.

Finally there is a question mark hanging over the future of Augusto for before taking over the national side he was assistant manager under Jimmy Hagan at Benfica.

With Hagan apparently unwilling to prolong his contract when it expires at the end of the season Augusto will be the favourite for the job and obviously tempted. If he goes then the FA will find it difficult to replace him for he has re-vitalised the Portuguese national team and given the players greater confidence than at any time in the last seven years.

WORLD SOCCER DIARY

GOALSCORING forwards receive maximum publicity because their exploits usually decide matches. But one could argue that even the most redoubtable sharp-shooters are only as good as their ultimate opponents —the goalkeepers—allow them to be! The custodians can also, by virtue of their ability decide the result of a game.

The latest "fad", picked up in Britain by ITV, is to find goalkeepers who remain unbeaten for the longest period of time. This "competition" was prompted by the Italian national 'keeper Dino Zoff (Juventus), who did not concede a goal in League matches for 903 minutes!

The "world record" is claimed by the Brasilian Jorge Reyes, from the FC Rio Branco, who kept his slate clean during 1,530 minutes in 17 games (!) in 1971. The previous best was established by his compatriot Raoul, from Cruzeiro, who remained unbeaten for 1,170 minutes.

How the mighty have fallen . . . the effigy o Tussaud waxwork museum in Blackpool, fou the exhibition. After a brief "return" to his old

An interesting experiment at Liverpool, where a linesman wears a special garment designed to make him more identifiable against the background of the crowd.

In Britain, Aberdeen's goalie Bobby Clark once completed 957 minutes before conceding a goal. In Germany, Willi Ertz (Boroussia Neunkirchen) survived until his twelfth match, after his series stretched to 995 minutes, in the 1971-72 season.

In the *Budesliga*, the record was once held by their World Cup (1966) 'keeper Hans Tilkowski, who remained undefeated during 547 minutes with Borussia Dortmund. His mark was passed in 1971 by Schalke's current custodian Norbert Nigbur, who set a new target of 555 minutes. But in his next game Nigbur picked the ball out of the net seven times (!) when his team went under in Mönchengladbach 0-7. . . .

WELL DONE BBC RADIO

On a night of furious activity in Europe, when the first leg matches of the various competitions were staged, the BBC Radio team emerged with great credit. Their "Soccer Special" programme (produced, incidentally, by WORLD SOCCER contributor Roger Macdonald) provided a comprehensive and informative account of all the matches.

It was good to results of those British clubs as did.

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WORLD SOCCER DIARY

GOALDIGGERS PLAY AGAIN

THE GOALDIGGERS do not expect to win many matches, justfriends," says club chairman Bryan Forbes, the film writer and director. But things may be different on April 1.

In September 1972, David Bedford, Tom Courtenay, David Frost, Jimmy Greaves and Jimmy Hill played against a team of 11-year-old Bermondsey kids in a Five-A-Side Match to officially launch the "Goaldiggers". In spite of the Goaldiggers' efforts the result of the match was a 7-7 draw.

In November, captained by Billy Wright, the Goaldiggers — represented by Jack Kelsey, George Cohen, Johnny Haynes, John Charles, Danny Blanchflower and other soccer giants played a team of similar stars from Europe, captained by the legendary Puskas himself. The result of the match was 5-4 to the Europeans.

But on April 1 it will be the first time that team coach Prince Philip, and his assistant coach, comedian Eric Morecambe, will be watching their team, and the referee will be a former Goaldigger team-mate, Danny Blanchflower.

So some of the pressure may be lifted from captain Billy Wright and his team including the goal-scoring wizard of the 60's Jimmy Greaves, Goaldigger Council member Jimmy Hill, George Cohen and Jack Kelsey but they will still be looking for support from club council Willis Hall (co-playwright of the current ITV series "Upper Crusts"), top tailor Douglas Hayward, Chelsea FC Chairman Brian Mears, and TV personality Michael Parkinson and all Goaldigger Club members.

"Perhaps it was not entirely by chance," says chairman Bryan Forbes "that this match was arranged for April 1; the Goaldiggers are foolish enough to believe that their lighthearted approach to a serious problem might make converts.

"Quite simply, we are trying to provide play spaces where children can kick a ball about in safety." The idea behind the Goaldiggers came from Prince Philip who is President of The National Playing Fields Association.

Entrance to the ground will be by programme (30p) or stand ticket (£5), on sale from The Goaldiggers, 57b Catherine Place, London SW1 or Windsor & Eton.

Arsenal's Bob McNab gives a few hints to Reg Varney, during rehearsals for an "On the Buses" programme. McNab made a guest appearance in the show.

PERSONAL OPINION

LEEDS U FOR AND A

by PHILIP RISING

TO say Leeds United are not a popular side in the South of England is to utter a euphemism of gigantic proportions. My colleague, Leslie Vernon, is clearly not a fan and his comments reflect the feelings of a great many soccer addicts in this country.

Yet it seems to me that Leeds come in for a great deal of criticism they don't altogether deserve. Knocking Leeds has become a favourite past time, especially at this time of the year, when they emerge with amazing consistency as contenders for just about every available trophy.

Leslie lays several charges against Leeds, but many are an indictment of professional football in England and not just one club. Sure, they're a strong, physical side. They have to be, just as Arsenal and Liverpool can turn on the hard stuff when the occasion arises. Winning championships in England is a tough business and Leeds cannot be held responsible for all the unnecessary violence in our game.

Opponents

I would agree that Leeds tend to resort to time-wasting tactics when often they could, and should, be rubbing the noses of their opponents in the ground . . . not literally I might add.

Make no mistake, Leeds are the most talented and skilful team in England. I saw them play against Rapid Bucharest in the first leg of their Cup Winners Cup quarter final tie. Rapid weren't the best of sides, and were crude in the early stages, but Leeds massacred them with superb attacking football.

In that sort of mood, Leeds are a class above even Arsenal and Liverpool to my mind. But the road to the League title is a gruelling one and skill alone is not enough. That's no excuse for being dirty but are Leeds as violent as some make out?

Statistics

Norman Hunter and Trevor Cherry have both been booked eight times; not records to be proud of. Certainly the disciplinary statistics of the Leeds players makes poor reading but they are certainly not as unscrupulous as some sides.

I would not attempt to condone some of Hunter's tackling but his offences are not pre-meditated or malicious. He is hard, too much so at times, but he doesn't aim to put opposing players on a stretcher.

I recall that he was booked at Leicester a short time ago, for a tackle on Keith Weller that some pundits described as "one of the worst fouls ever seen." But who was it supporting Hunter when he appeared before a FA Commission? None other than Keith Weller.

There is frequently too much dissent by the Leeds team, Peter Lorimer certainly play-acts and appeals more often than he should, and none of their players are angels when it comes to hard play.

Their faults shouldn't be brushed under the carpet, but let's not forget their good points and the tremendous job Don Revie has performed at Elland Road. They are a great side, in my opinion.

Their encounter with Derby at the Baseball Ground was a disgrace. But Leeds were no more to blame than Derby. Yet the main culprit was the pitch. The conditions which prevailed — a muddy morass—made football impossible. Players, understandably, became frustrated . . . frustration turned to anger and, almost inevitably, squabbles and physical clashes occurred. Players were caught in tackles they would have avoided under normal conditions, tempers become frayed, and even the normally placid Paul Madeley lost his cool.

Not a good advert for British soccer; but Derby proved their abundant skill against QPR in the FA Cup and Leeds showed their class against Rapid. Both are capable of touching great heights. Let's remember that and appreciate exactly what is needed to win the championship in England.

It would be nice—for the players and the spectators—if skill alone were enough. But it isn't. Perhaps Leeds overstep the mark on occasions, as do other clubs, but that's something we have to live with.

Norman Hunter of Leeds and Keith Weller of Leicester City during a match at Filbert Street. Hunter was booked for a foul on Weller.

UNITED AGAINST

by LESLIE VERNON

NOT wishing to be over-dramatic, I will merely say that March 3 was a sad day for English football. All the ills, sores, and unappetising aspects of the game surfaced as though obeying some mischievous, unseen force, which is intent on destroying the future of the sport.

First, we had the misfortune to witness a Cup Final devoid of colour, invention and even ambition. Norwich, so aptly nicknamed the "Canaries" (a useless bird whose plumage is its only redeeming feature), came to town to appear in the world's foremost football stadium. Like the bit-player who has at last achieved the accolade of being cast in a leading role at the Old Vic, here was the opportunity for boldness and adventure.

But, Ron Saunders and his un-merry men, fluffed their lines dreadfully, and shamed the city and their likeable fans who deserved so much more. The manager, frightened by non-existent shadows, opted for safety, instead of the refreshing buccaneering days of last autumn, which seemed light-years away.

Below par

Norwich aimed to contain only, and almost managed to drag Tottenham down to their level. These chicken-hearted Canaries stayed on the floor every time they flopped over, attacked with two below-par strikers, and defended an invisible lead with the desperation of a drowning man who had jumped into the water voluntarily.

A Spurs player suggested that Norwich deliberately stage-managed those tedious stoppages to upset the Londoners' rhythm. What rhythm? One may ask, although the superiority of the victors was never in question. Saunders even had the audacity to speak about "hard luck" after the game, and to indicate that if they play as well (?) as this, they will stay in the First Division.

He ought to have apologised to the public for the non-entertainment, and then swiftly slunk back to his coaching manuals which might tell him that this was not the way to win friends and cup finals.

On the same evening, one had to endure the unedifying spectacle of the Derby v Leeds league game. Earlier in the week, Leeds manager Don Revie pleaded for safe-conduct for his own ball-players in general, and for Eddie Gray in particular. Brian Clough shrewdly observed that the Leeds boys deserved the same treatment that Norman Hunter dishes out to opposing players.

After this brilliant exchange, which was reminiscent of the well-rehearsed banters prize fighters are engaged in to sell a few more tickets, the match itself was a truly scandalous affair.

For once, let's not mince words and state that Leeds United are a dreadful team. They habitually squander the immense talents at their disposal, and strong-arm their way towards the all-important, but essentially hollow victories. Masters of the crafty dive inside the penalty-box, of time-wasting, they are probably the most unpopular club of the post-war era.

Outrageous

Against Derby, for instance, Lorimer did his usual "dying swan" act, Madeley punched an opponent, and Hunter committed one of the most outrageous fouls ever seen on colour television.

Hunter was booked—for the 8th time this season! A player with this record and attitude would be banned for at least six months in W. Germany or Italy, and would most likely be suspended for a couple of years in Eastern Europe.

Recently, the Honved-Budapest full-back, Kelemen, committed a nasty foul, but the referee took no action. His manager, Jozsef Meszaros, immediately took the player off, and after the game, fined him for bringing the good name of the club into disrepute.

Defiantly

This was the action of an excellent coach, who earns less in a year than Mr. Revie gets in a month. But the Leeds supremo never utters a word in condemnation of his players. On the contrary! He defiantly stated that: "Norman will not change his natural game."

Football is important to me and to millions of others. As long as we let managers get away with euphemisms like "hard and tough" when they should say "dirty and despicable", the game itself is in great danger. "Professional"—is another meaningless epitaph used to cover-up a multitude of sins. Too often when people say that Leeds are very professional, what they really mean is that they are ruthless and unscrupulous.

What is professional about a deliberate foul when a forward is unfairly stopped in his tracks? It is an abhorrent tactical ploy which ought to be punished with instant dismissal. But unfortunately, Revie and his loyal bunch of super-pros are not the only culprits of our depressing times.

How do you feel about the player who punches the ball into the net, and when a goal is awarded, boasts about his cleverness to the press? Stand up Francis Lee and plead guilty! Bryan Forbes, the actor-director, asked me why the F.A. can't suspend Lee and brand him as a cheat. I suppose because his own evidence is not sufficient, as the referee didn't see a thing. But it was a good question Bryan.

How do you feel about the managers who launch appeals against bookings, simply to gain time and have their players available for important matches? In racing, if a jockey lodges a frivolous appeal, he is fined on the spot—that is what I would do with these people (to the tune of £1,000 at least) who ruin a disciplinary system which could work to the best advantage of everyone concerned.

Integrity

Happily, even the Black Saturday had a bright redeeming feature. Bill Nicholson, a man of integrity, didn't indulge in mealy-mouthed, self-congratulations. "Norwich made it difficult, but we didn't play well. I have never had a really good Cup Final at Wembley. I am pleased for the boys' sake, but I wish we could have given the crowd better entertainment".

This was straight talking from a man who has just won his seventh big-time trophy—out of seven tries! He alone restored my faith in this great game, because he believes that football is more important than himself, and that merely winning is not the ultimate objective.

I pledge my vote for the "Manager of the Year" award here and now to Nicholson, who in any case, is long overdue for this recognition. But my colleagues, as usual, will probably give it to someone who has won the League or the Cup—no matter by what methods!

Quote of the Month—Jackie Goodwin at the London Coaches Dinner in his speech: "We invited Brian Clough to insult our Chairman, but he couldn't make it".

PERSONAL OPINION

'They habitually squander the immense talents at their disposal'

Armfield quietly restores Bolton

by ERIC THORNTON

Jimmy Armfield, former England captain now manager of Bolton Wanderers.

JIMMY ARMFIELD, the Quiet One, is all set now for the last exciting lap of the promotion battle, and the prize to success stamp his first venture into the risky arena of management. The Mancunian who spent twenty years of a football life with Blackpool, is within comfy distance of taking the Bolton boys back into the Second Division from which they tumbled in disorderly confusion a couple of years ago.

At that period of time, the entire old cotton town was draped in crepe, soccer buses were often cancelled because of shortage of customers, and whenever the crowd on the famous Burnden Park ground topped seven thousand, officials thought someone was having a party.

The club which provided the first Wembley winners at the "White Horse" final of 1923, had four managers in as many years as they pitched out of the top circle, and within a mere seven years were struggling in the Third Division.

Fortunately, someone noticed, just then, that Armfield was rising 35, often absent from the Bloomfield first-team, and had excellent credentials as an England captain and a good living type. So he was given the first chance to govern.

Wonderful times

The dressing-room was a morgue. The team was thrashed 6-0 by Chelsea in a League Cup replay before their own unhappy fans. Everybody talked of nothing but the wonderful times of long ago, and the great ones such as Joe Smith, David Jack, Ted Vizard, Nat Lofthouse, Eddie Hopkinson, and so on.

Faded photographs of teams that conquered looked down from the board-room walls. Until Jimmy decided that enough was enough, and they were removed. He said it was the future that mattered, and the youngsters who were waiting to be marshalled into new line-ups for the Wanderers.

Winning praise

Now, to-day, with less than two years of managership stretching behind, these home-made stars are winning praise in every part of the country, which is especially remarkable when one considers that their average age is only 22, and the majority cost nothing more than a signing-on fee.

For instance, goalkeeper Charlie Wright moved there on a free from Charlton, and nine of the regular league team were recruited from the club's youth squads after having been spotted on junior pitches by a small but enthusiastic band of scouts who know their job.

There was a period when youngsters were not too keen about going to Burnden, but now all clamour for trials. Because Bolton offer a better bet for opportunities than the bigger outfits in Manchester and on Merseyside.

If he wanted to "raise the wind" he could make a packet by selling just three of his teenagers—Stuart Lee, a fast improving 18-year-old, centre-half Paul Jones (19), and striker Garry Jones (18). They have become hot property, but Jimmy wants them for a splash in the Second Division.

Apprentices' pool

Yet if they left, the boss would be able to fill the gaps from an impressive apprentices' pool which, at the moment, includes a youth team back four of six-footers, and an England youth goalkeeper in Barry Siddall.

There's no doubt the boys are doing Jimmy proud. And, of course, so are the supporters who are leaving the telly once more, and paying tribute to the march of progress by queueing for favourite spots on the terraces and in the stands.

Right results

Once the right results became coming, the attendances slowly increased. They rose from 7,000 to 8,000, 10,000, 15,000, and so forth until three quick fixtures pulled in over 70,000, and Bolton's 39,000 for the Luton Cup game, in February, was one of the biggest crowds of that particular winter's day.

In addition, the fans are right behind this new team. They love it, and are cheering it forward in every game. So much so that skipper Warwick Rimmer, last of the mohicans from the First Division era, says the crowds are now providing a tremendous atmosphere where previously there was none.

Some say that the Wanderers young manager is developing into another Busby. Certainly, it is the bargain team of the season of which Jimmy "43-cap" Armfield is so fiercely proud.

GREAT BRITAIN

SCOTLAND by Alex Gordon

CELTIC LOSE TOUCH

SOMETHING very sad has happened to Scottish soccer this season. Something magical has gone out of the game. Celtic, Parkhead's attacking cavaliers, have failed to recapture the glittering touch that made them one of the world's most feared teams and are now struggling to keep pace with their own high standards.

It's a sad loss to every neutral fan who flocked to Celtic's matches to marvel at their skill, power and goal-hunger. This season the challenge of Rangers, Hibs and Aberdeen has proved to be a very serious assault course for the Parkhead men and they haven't been clearing the hurdles with the same sort of style they did several seasons ago.

They met Hibs in the Finals of the League Cup and the Drybrough Cup and they flopped twice in front of their own fans at Hampden. In these games against the attack-conscious Hibs men the Celtic defence groaned and creaked and finally gave away seven goals in 210 minutes of soccer. This was unthinkable three years ago.

Now, however, it appears that Celtic are at the edge of an era. They could topple over by failing to win their eighth successive League title . . . or they could just hold on and take the championship, but even if they do triumph there are still a lot of questions still to be answered.

Celtic have dropped vital League points to Airdrie, East Fife, Partick Thistle, Dundee United, Dundee, Rangers and Hibs at an alarming rate and with every lost point they have lost some of the respect that they earned over the years with their brilliant, methodical play. Of course, Celtic, like their great rivals Rangers, are just the sort of team to rise to a challenge and I don't think they can get a bigger one than proving to everyone in Scotland that they haven't lost all of their magic.

What can Jock Stein do to put the punch back into his tottering team? It is obvious to the punters who pay their money to follow their favourites every week that some of the positions could be strengthened. Stein made a great capture in Ally Hunter from Kilmarnock to solve his goalkeeper problem, but there are still other positions in defence that look weak. Left-back hasn't been properly filled since Tommy Gemmell left for Nottingham Forest.

Dour defender

Several players have been tried in this position in an effort to find the solution, but the problem is still there and it seems Stein will have to go outside Parkhead for a steady left-back. One player who could do a good job for Celtic in this role is Motherwell's Joe Wark. Joe very seldom gets the headlines his steady defensive play deserves, but he is certainly one of the dourest defenders north of the border and there aren't many attackers who could say they have had the better of him. Jimmy Johnstone has spent many a frustrating 90 minutes against this solid tackler.

The midfield has had a vacant look about it since Bertie Auld left for Hibs. When he left a lot of Celtic's machinery went with him. Is there anyone at Parkhead at the moment who could do his role? Bobby Murdoch, Tommy Callaghan, Kenny Dalglish and Harry Hood have played within the Celtic cockpit, but the presence of Auld is definitely missed. Murdoch has been hampered by injuries and definitely needs support. Callaghan is more of an industrious player, full of running and is a good foil for Murdoch, but another player is needed in this department.

One player who springs to mind is Aberdeen's skilful Stevie Murray, who is yet another player who wants to join the trail of Martin Buchan and Joe Harper and leave the Pittodrie club. Murray has the same sort of deft touches as Auld and is always looking for the unexpected through ball that catches defences turning. A player such as Murray would leave Dalglish free to concentrate on popping in the goals up front where Dixie Deans badly needs support.

When Celtic were the rulers of Europe six years ago they had Stevie Chalmers, Joe McBride, Willie Wallace and Bobby Lennox as their front-line strikers. Jock Stein was able to pick and choose his strikers for particular games and give players a much-needed rest at specific points in the season. Not so now. Deans hasn't had a rest since the start of the season and this has undoubtedly affected his form in several matches.

Bobby Lennox has taken a bit of goal-scoring weight from Deans' shoulders this term with a sudden recapture of his old up-and-at-'em style. A rejuvenated Lennox has helped Celtic pick up some vital points this season, but his new hunger for the game hasn't been copied by other Celtic men. Jimmy Johnstone, for instance, has had a fairly lean season. He seems to have lost the urge that made him such a feared winger . . . a household name throughout Europe. It's up to Johnstone to prove himself. He has had praise heaped upon him throughout the years for his superb performances. You have to take the good with the bad in this game as Johnstone should know by now.

European soccer didn't last long for Celtic this season before they crashed out to Ujpest Dozsa, of Hungary. They were blitzed in the second leg in Budapest and must have been a terrible disappointment for the fans who turned up expecting a tough match. Celtic surrendered without a fight and went down 3-0, but it could have been even more. Mistakes were made before and during that match. Players such as George Connelly, normally a sweeper, and Pat McCluskey, a midfield man, were played out of position and the Parkhead defensive system was wrecked by the swift-moving Hungarians.

Reserve power

If Celtic do win the Scottish title this season it is doubtful if they will make great progress in the European Cup next season. If they played Ajax tomorrow they would probably lose. I don't think Celtic have the sort of reserve power to keep their first team men from getting complacent at the moment. Some of the babes tipped for the top a couple of years ago have made little progress.

The kids most likely to succeed at Parkhead just now are right-back Don Watt, centre-half Roddy McDonald, midfield men Brian McLaughlin and Andy Ritchie and winger Andy Lynch, a £35,000 recruit from Hearts this season. The average age of these players is 18 and they are tremendous prospects, but the Celtic of six years ago seemed to have youngsters making an all-out effort for EVERY position in the first-team. Apparently those days have gone.

Making life even tougher for the Celtic fans is the recent rise of Rangers across Glasgow at Ibrox. Rangers had a woeful start to the season, but under manager Jock Wallace they have come good again. Colin Stein and Willie Johnston have gone south, but their replacements, Derek Parlane and Quinton Young, have certainly made their mark in the first team. Parlane has been particularly impressive with his bravery and ability to snatch goals from just about every angle inside the penalty box. No keeper can feel complacent when this boy is lurking around.

Young is in much the same mould as Johnston with his quick penetrating raiding and lethal finishing power. Derek Johnstone is one of the best young centre-halfs in Britain and keeper Peter McCloy has never looked safer. John Greig and Sandy Jardine are dependable defenders and Tommy McLean and Alfie Conn have added a touch of class to the attack. Tom Forsyth, from Motherwell, and Joe Mason, from Morton, are two very capable and experienced additions to the Ibrox pool.

GREAT BRITAIN

What can be salvaged from Cyprus humiliation?

N. IRELAND

by COLIN McALPIN

CONSOLATIONS can be few and far between following Northern Ireland's disgraceful 1-0 defeat at the hands of Cyprus—no better than a struggling Irish League team—in their World Cup game in Nicosia last month. But if the Irish Football Association is brave enough, and honest enough with itself, much can be salvaged from the rubble of a result which has left the reputation of the national team as a whole, and a few of the players individually, at its lowest ebb ever.

Certainly the result was a bitter blow to our World Cup hopes—never bright to begin with placed as we were in a group which included the formidable Bulgaria (who have already beaten us 3-0 in Sofia) and Portugal as well as the, on paper, easy Cypriots—and certainly player-manager Terry Neill might be faulted for adopting the wrong tactics on the day and the wrong players—he converted full-back Sammy Nelson of Arsenal into a forward and left several recognised forwards sitting on the bench—but in many ways he is not entirely to blame for the catastrophie. The blame, in my opinion, lies in our fundamental approach to international football.

Hysterical

The hysterical ramblings of some Irish F.A. officials after the match—one suggested the return to the bad old days when a selection committee picked the team and another went on television and criticised the actions of Neill (who was not, of course, there to defend himself in any way)—in no way helped the situation. Having chosen Neill, for better or worse, to manage the team would it not be more polite for these people to remain in what the rest of us would consider apt silence?

The idea of the selection committee—made up, if I'm any judge of football in Northern Ireland, of men from the obscurity of the Churches' League and the Amateur League—is one that has absolutely no merit to it. Men with no experience of international football, and precious little of what the modern game is all about at any level, have surely nothing to offer. They would be best advised leaving such matters to professionals.

Fickle fate

Terry Neill has fallen between the stools of playing and managing, yet he firmly believes he can still offer a lot to the team as a player as well as a manager. Certainly, the goal he scored last May that beat the English at Wembley during the British Championship earned him praise enough from the same people who are now lining up to batter his knuckles. Fickle fate!

If he hopes to continue his association with the national team, and I believe he has still a contribution to make, he must make up his mind. He must stop playing, for all that he continues to play well, and stick to the terraces from where he will no doubt be in a better position to see the developing faults and put them to right.

But it is in a larger sense that the faults will be adequately tackled. Northern Ireland must have a full-time national manager-coach. In the past such a suggestion brought the comment that the Irish F.A. couldn't afford one. Now they must be honest enough to admit that they cannot afford not to afford one.

At the moment we are clearly merely playing in the shallow water of international football. Our short-sighted approach to the game on a global scale—the non-entry of a representative team in the European Youth tournaments—is catching up with us. When a country like Cyprus can see us off then the obvious becomes even more obvious. A complete and utter change is needed in the way we go about living in the big, brash world of top-class soccer.

Coaching

The appointment of a professional as national manager-coach—and there are many men to select from, I need not necessarily name them here—would help get the game, both at home and abroad, back on the rails. Such a man could organise coaching throughout the Province, could bring under one roof—with the necessary help—the entire international representation of Northern Ireland, from schoolboy level to the full World Cup side. He could, in short, bring some system to the shambles our football lives in.

And, for once, the Irish F.A. must realise that a revolutionary step can be for the best. Something different, and brave, can be tried with no real fears. The future, if we will grasp it firmly, is bright. It's ours for the taking!

A colleague, commenting on the game and the general approach to it, felt that several of the players were self-assured and almost impertinently cocksure, their club feats apparently making them blase about international selection: "They take their selection for granted and it is time they were given a shake-up. In other words, let's sort out the big heads."

Indeed let's! Too many have turned in third-rate performances in the green shirt. Terry Neill forwarded his report to the International Committee shortly after the game. If they simply play little Hitlers without realising that they are as much to blame as Neill and his players there can be little hope for us.

A loud silence from that quarter would be greatly appreciated!

Irish manager Terry Neill.

GREAT BRITAIN

UNDER-23 TEAM FACES CRISIS

WALES

by PETER JACKSON

AT the end of a depressing season the Welsh F.A. is faced with the ticklish problem of deciding whether to bow to public disapproval and scrap its Under 23 team.

The question is raised following the 2,439 attendance for last month's 2-1 defeat by Scotland at Swansea, an all-time low gate figure since Wales began dabbling in Under 23 football more than a decade ago.

That the Welsh football public ignored the Swansea match merely confirmed a feeling that the fans in Wales didn't care very much whether the Under-23 programme lives or dies.

A powerful England side appeared at the Vetch Field last November and drew no bigger a crowd, if you could call it that, of 6,394.

A combined attendance for the two home matches against England and Scotland of 8,833 was barely above the Fourth Division average returned by Newport County at Somerton Park since Christmas.

Clearly what the Welsh F.A. has to decide is whether it can afford to go on losing money for the sake of retaining Under 23 status. During the last ten years Wales have lost more than £3,000 for the privilege of competing against England and Scotland at intermediate international level.

Peculiar

But gates have not dipped as low as they have this season, a fact peculiar not to Wales but one which can be applied to other Under 23 matches this season.

Receipts, for instance, for the Scottish match totalled £1,049. Of that, £800 went on players' fees and another £156 to Swansea City for use of their ground.

When all the reckoning has been done, the Welsh F.A. may find themselves out of pocket by anything up to £1,500. And that for a home match is something of a financial disaster.

The argument for retaining the Under 23 programme is that by providing the only bridge between the youth and senior teams it brings a source of supply to the national team, a grooming ground for such players as John Toshack, Leighton James, Peter Rodrigues and others.

No Welshman has appeared more often for the Under 23's as Mike England whose eleven matches for Young Wales provided a solid base for his international future. That's all very well but surely the point is that outstanding players such as England were destined for the top with or without the encouragement of Under 23 recognition.

Yet the depth of public apathy to Welsh Under 23 games has perhaps been exaggerated by an unfortunate fixture clash on the night of the game against Scotland. A mile away, at the St. Helen's rugby ground, an estimated 18,000 saw a Welsh Rugby Union Cup semi-final.

Poverty

"Without that counter-attraction," said a Welsh F.A. official "Our gate would have been doubled. But it was unlikely that there would have been much more than 5,000 at the game."

The stay-away fans reflect the current state of poverty in Welsh football. The prospect of the Principality's four League clubs competing in the Third Division next season will do nothing to make it any richer.

If Cardiff City lose their long fight against relegation, then Wales will find itself for the first time in post-war football minus a representative in the top two divisions.

Newport County's genuine bid to climb out of the Fourth Division after several seasons on the breadline offers the one source of comfort on an otherwise bleak scene. The possibility of two Cardiff-Newport derby games next season has not gone without notice.

Re-elected

Two years ago that seemed as remote a happening as Hartlepool winning the F.A. Cup. Then, Cardiff missed the boat to the First Division because of a shock end-of-season defeat by Watford and at the same time bets were being struck against Newport being re-elected to the League.

Since then the Monmouthshire club gave the manager's job back to Billy Lucas and went twelve miles down the road to sign Brian Harris on a free transfer from Cardiff.

Welsh full-back Rod Thomas.

Thirty-eight next month, the former Everton defender can never have dreamt of finding himself on the way back up with a club which, for all the world, looked to be down and out.

Local car dealer Cyril Rogers has given the club a boardroom drive which has helped pull it back from the edge of a financial precipice.

The recovery has been such that Newport have found themselves in the enviable position of rejecting offers for their players, notably centre half Steve Aizlewood who has drawn bids from Crystal Palace and Brighton. Newport insist there will be no sale.

San Lorenzo, first club to complete the "double"—First Division and national titles—in one season, are strong favourites for the "Libertadores" Cup also. Left to right, standing, are Irusta, Rezza, Rosl, Heredia and Telch. Kneeling: Figueroa, Ayala, Cocco, Chazarreta, Espósito and Villar.

SOUTH AMERICAN ROUND-UP

by ERIC WEIL

San Lorenzo favourites to win 'Libertadores'

THIS year's 14th edition of the "Libertadores Cup"—for league champions and vice-champions of South America—has no newcomers, while the Uruguayan vice-champions, Penarol, of Montevideo, are participating for the 13th time. Only six clubs have won the title so far—Penarol (Uruguay), Estudiantes de La Plata (Argentina) and current holders, Independiente (Argentina) three times each, Santos (Brazil) twice and Nacional (Uruguay) and Racing Club (Argentina) once, but it is confidently expected that a new name will go on the Cup this year.

Eighteen of the 19 participants—the two teams from Venezuela have not been admitted due to a split in their F.A.—are divided into five groups, the winners of which qualify for the semi-final groups (two of three teams each) together with holders Independiente.

Double

Group 1 San Lorenzo and River Plate (Argentina), Jorge Wilsterman and Oriente Petrolero (Bolivia).

San Lorenzo, the first team ever to complete the "double" of winning the First Division Metropolitan and National Championships in the same season, are hot favourites to win the Cup, hard-pressed by River Plate whom they only pipped for the national title in an extra-time final.

Both these Argentine teams have a far better chance than holders, Independiente, a team with a sound defence, but no attack, which failed to impress when winning the Cup last year and have done less in the league since.

San Lorenzo, who had a won 29, drawn 16, lost 3 record in the two leagues last season, are powered chiefly by their half-back line, but with several dangerous goal-getters, their attack has to be watched also.

River Plate, probably the youngest team in the Cup this season, have a deadly attack which scored 50 goals in 13 national championship games and they are rapidly gaining experience and tightening their defence.

Finalists

San Lorenzo's only previous intervention was in the first edition in 1960, while River Plate (for whom it is the fourth try) were losing finalists in 1966.

Jorge Wilsterman are in the tournament for the fifth time, while Oriente Petrolero are participating for the second year running, but the two Bolivian teams are not likely to be much of an obstacle.

Bolivia's altitude will not be a factor. These teams come from Cochabamba (2600 metres above sea level) and Santa Cruz (only 600 metres) where their home games will be played and that isn't so bad.

Group 2 — Nacional and Penarol (Uruguay), Palmeiras and Botafogo (Brazil).

Nacional are certainly top dogs in Uruguay, having just won the First Division title for the fourth year running, but they have only won the "Libertadores Cup" once, while Penarol is the most experienced club in the tournament in which they have participated twelve times, played 108 games (not including this year) and won it three times. The two Uruguayan teams are not the power they used to be, however, as both have had to sell a number of star players to make ends meet.

That is why one of the two Brazilian teams is more likely to win Group 2 which appears to be the strongest. Palmeiras, of Sao Paulo, have won all the prizes in Brazil during the last season and have participated in the "Libertadores Cup" three times, being losing finalists once.

Santos of Brazil.

The powerful Rio club, Botafogo, have a record of 339 games played outside Brazil, but they have only played in the Cup once before. Yet with a star-studded line-up, including World Cup stars Jairzinho and Brito, they are a force to be reckoned with.

Group 3—Colo-Colo and Union Espanola (Chile), Emelec and Nacional (Ecuador).

Chilean league soccer standards showed an improvement last season and Colo-Colo, comfortable First Division winners, could cause a surprise with their attractive soccer which is more attack-minded than that of most other participants. (I wrote about Colo-Colo, who play in the Cup for the fifth time, in this column last month.

Ecuador's teams, Emelec (run by Guayaquil's Electricity Company) and Nacional (run by the army and who, as distinct from Emelec, include only native players in their line-up,) are not expected to stand out. Only point in their favour is that they had full match practice virtually up to the time the tournament started in a triangular national title play-off which finished as follows:—1 Emelec, 2 Nacional, 3 Barcelona.

Play-off

Group 4—Millionarios and Deportivo Cali (Colombia).

A double triple play-off, for last year's national title, ended only recently in Colombia with this result:—1, Millionarios; 2, Deportivo Cali; 3, Junior. New the first and second are due to meet again for a place in the "Libertadores Cup" semi-final groups.

Venezuela's representatives, Deportivo Italia and Deportivo Galicia, who were due to play in this group also, were left out of the draw for reasons already explained. Deportivo Cali, under Argentine coach, Vladislao Cap, also include several Argentine players in their line-up and are slight favourites to beat the champs.

Group 5—Cerro Porteno and Olimpia (Paraguay), Sporting Cristal and Universitario (Peru).

Universitario, the most experienced Cup fighters after Penarol, are making their tenth appearance in the competition this year. They were losing finalists last year, but they are weakened this year by the absence of no less than Chumpitaz, Luna, Munante, Percy Rojas, Ramirez and Oblitas who are in Peru's World Cup squad.

Weakened

Universitario, who played in a recent "Libertadores Cup" with ten reserves for the same reason, should still be strong however. Yet with Peruvian champions, Sporting Cristal, who are run by a brewery, also being weakened by World Cup calls, the two Paraguayan clubs, who have not yet had to give up players to their country's national squad, must be slight favourites.

Cerro Porteno (champions) and Olimpia are also experienced Cup fighters, having taken part in the tournament six and seven times respectively.

This was the first group to start its matches and at press time the two Peruvian teams had drawn 2-2, while in Paraguay, Cerro Porteno beat Olimpia 4-2.

SANTIAGO (Chile)

WEST German trainer Tudi Gutendorf said here that "only a miracle" would get the Chilean national team into the 1974 World Cup Finals, following his resignation as the team's coach.

Herr Gutendorf said he was "not kicked out" by the Chilean Football Association board, "but they pushed me into resigning."

A dispute arose over Herr Gutendorf's methods in training the Chilean team for their World Cup qualifying round match against Peru next month.

Herr Gutendorf told newsmen: "I don't understand why they should want me to go now, after 10 months of work with only a month to go before the match."

The Football Association has given no reason for Herr Gutendorf's resignation. His contract—at a salary of 1,000 dollars a month—had been due to expire on May 31.

Her Gutendorf said he had already received several offers of work, but he would not return to Peru—where he trained the first division club Sporting Cristal in 1971 and early 1972. It would not be right to go there before the Chile-Peru match, he said.

His successor as trainer of the Chilean side is Luis Alamos, manager of Colo Colo, last season's Chilean league champions. Herr Gutendorf said he thought this was a good choice, but because of the different methods of the two men, "only a miracle would get Chile into the finals."

EASTERN EUROPE...

Jekov rejected

BULGARIA

THE recently appointed Bulgarian national team manager, Christo Mladenov, appears determined to do without the services of CSKA star Peter Jekov. After visiting Cyprus and Greece during the winter break with his new young squad Mladenov sent the B team off to Australia and the Far East. This team included Jekov and several other former World Cup stars Dermendiev, Gaganelov and Yakimov.

Resuming the domestic programme, the early games brought a string of nasty shocks for Christo Bonev captain of league leaders Lokomotive Plovdiv and recently crowned Footballer of the Year. In the FA Cup, played in four groups of four teams (three games all on neutral grounds), Lokomotive went out to Akademik (Sofia).

Worse was to come, however, for on the resumption of the league programme Lokomotive met their neighbours Trakia in a duel between midfield schemers Dermendiev (discarded by Mladenov) and Bonev the new national hero. Dermendiev took his revenge in this game, laying on a goal for Kitchekov and then Bonev missed a penalty to give Trakia a 1-0 win. On the same day CSKA won 2-1 away to Botev to topple Lokomotive from the top.

The following week-end was the day of the Sofia derby games in which CSKA were held to 1-1 by Slavia and Levski, still in with a title chance, beat Lokomotive Sofia 1-0 with a goal from Tzvetkov. Meanwhile Lokomotive Plovdiv drew 0-0 away to Cernomore at Varna before meeting CSKA in a match that could have settled the championship. The Sofia Army club pushed Lokomotive into 4th place with a 1-0 win from a goal by Jekov which puts them out in front again and favourites to retain their title.

Austrian captain Peter Pumm.

RAPID LOOK TO SPIEGEL

AUSTRIA

DURING the winter break in Austria the top clubs have made desperate efforts to engage reinforcements. SC Rapid still hope to sign the Israeli international inside forward Giora Spiegel while Admira manager Ernst Ocwirk has made several unsuccessful approaches for a striker in West Germany.

Under Ocwirk's guidance Admira made a tremendous start to the season but lacking a sharpshooter in attack were overhauled by Linz ASK near the end of the autumn campaign.

Admira badly miss the services of their former international centre forward Willi Kreuz now with Sparta in Holland.

Though a clause in his contract stipulates that he will be released by the Dutch club when needed for the Austrian national team Kreuz himself has written to the OFB and told them he is not interested in playing.

Reserves

Franz Hasil, who helped Feyenoord to a European and World title three years ago, has spent two months of this season in the Dutch clubs reserves. Anxious to return home he has promised to give Austria Klagenfurt the first option on his services if and when Feyenoord will release him.

Hampered by the lack of ready money and desperately low attendances many clubs have found it impossible to sign reinforcements. The only big exception just before the re-start is the Vienna club FK Austria.

They surprised everyone by engaging two Uruguayan players: Jose Cesar Morales who played in the 1970 World Cup and Alberto Martinez of Penarol.

Morales, who played for Nacional has already been signed and officially registered but technical difficulties are holding up the clearance of Maryinez and he may not be eligible to play until next season.

The national squad spent two weeks preparing by the Adriatic in Yugoslavia though without their foreign legion. Gallos scored the vital goal in a 1-0 win over Hajduk in Split and in a second game the Austrians beat Dinamo Zagreb 2-1 with libero Sturmberger scoring from 25 yards.

EASTERN EUROPE ...

Czechs spend month away

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

AFTER three defeats in the autumn campaign for his Czechoslovakian national side, Vaclav Jezek took his squad off to Holland for a month. There it was expected the weather would be kinder and allow training outside, though in fact snow gave a deal of trouble. Because of it a match against Feyenoord had to be cancelled and adding to Jezek's discomfort his probables were beaten 3-0 by Belgian league leaders FC Bruges.

Sparta meanwhile fared considerably better. They beat AS Roma 3-2 before going to Turkey where they drew 0-0 with Fenerbahce and were able to train or play every day.

For the resumption of the league programme, SK Slavia have engaged former national team manager Rudolf Vytlacil. During his time the Czechs reached the World Cup final in 1962 and later Vytacil led the Bulgarian squad in 1966. He retired two years ago, said to be suffering from a heart condition but Slavia desperately need a new hand at the helm.

Individualistic

They are still playing the individualistic, short passing game their fans were brought up on and are suffering for it.

Bottom of the table at the winter break they had scored only one goal away from home.

Slavia's first match under new management was away to champions and league leaders Spartak Trnava who beat them soundly by 4-0 with goals from Kuna and Adamec (3).

In previous games this season Adamec, once the Czechs top scorer had taken only two goals but his new found form failed to survive the test against Derby.

A crowd of 10,000 attended the match in Trnava though the biggest crowd of the day was almost inevitably at Letna where Sparta beat Dradec Kralove 2-1. They pulled in 14,000 though the best figures in Prague still belong to bottom of the table Slavia.

Lowest gate of the day was at Kosice where a mere 780 watched the 1-1 draw between Lokomotive and lowly Trinec.

Dragoslav Stepanovic of Yugoslavia.

SHORT TRIP

YUGOSLAVIA

THE leading clubs in Yugoslavia broke with tradition this year after much discussion by deciding to "winter" at home. Vujadin Boskov, national team manager, also planned a trip to South America but finally rejected this on the grounds that it involved too much travelling and allowed too little time for training. Finally a short trip to North Africa was arranged.

Against Tunisia, the Yugoslavs were held to a goal-less first half and then after Boskov had made seven changes they romped home to a 5-0 win. Scorers were Bajevic (2), Petkovic (2) and Vladic.

Before the players returned to their clubs to prepare for the re-start the national squad also played against Hajduk at Split. Without Dzajic, the ability of the national squad to get fouls was once more thrown into doubt by a 0-0 draw.

On the resumption of the league programme the leadership changed hands with Red Star the leaders at the break going down 1-0 away to lowly Dinamo Zagreb. This game produced a 40,000 crowd, the biggest at any Division 1 this season and the only goal was scored by left winger Rora.

This win lifted Dinamo several places in the table and did much to appease their dissatisfied supporters.

Meanwhile in Split, Velez Mostar were beating Hajduk 3-0 with goals from Bajevic (2) and Halilhodzic. This gives Velez a one point lead at the top though Partizan and OFK maintain the pressure from Belgrade.

In the FA Cup Velez have already eliminated OFK (on penalties) and are through to the semi finals along with the league rivals Partizan and Red Star.

EUROPE

AJAX WIN KEY GAME

Ajax's first goal against Bayern Munich scored by Haan.

HOLLAND
by JOHN SPARROW

WITHIN 60 seconds of the kick-off, the key game of the 1972-73 season turned into a nightmare for medical student Ger Reitsma. Before a packed Olympic Stadium in Amsterdam, the wrong-footed Feyenoord goalkeeper fell backwards over his line clutching a mediocre shot close to his body.

More was to come as Ajax strode to a singularly undistinguished victory over the Rotterdammers. Before half-time Reitsma was in trouble again, letting a shot from Johnny Rep through his hands into the net.

The gravity of the young keeper's blunders was clear enough. Prior to the match Feyenoord led the league with 38 points from 21 games, ahead of Ajax with the same tally from 22. If the Rotterdam side, which beat Ajax 2-0 earlier in the season, could repeat the feat, or even force a point, the Dutch league championship would look very much theirs. With the game in hand virtually guaranteeing two points, a three or four point deficit would certainly have proved too much for Ajax at such a late stage.

Programmes

As it turned out Ajax won 2-1 and instead the championship race is neck and neck. Making it even more interesting is the fact that both clubs have similar programmes in front of them. Of course, Feyenoord have a game in hand to help them back level on points with Ajax but even then the Amsterdammers have their goal tally to comfort them. As I write the free scoring champions are 20 goals to the good over Feyenoord! (To lay it on the line they've thumped in 74 league goals this season while conceding only a dozen).

One could not help feeling for dejected Feyenoord as they walked off the Olympic Stadium pitch. For me they had earned a point. Ressel hit the post, de Jong would have scored if a diving Heinz Stuy had cut his finger nails before the match, and Lex Schoenmaker scored the only honest to goodness goal we were to see. The second half substitute stepped into an Ajax defensive calamity five minutes before time to pull one goal back.

Ger Reitsma will not forget the night of March 3 in a long time. Maybe it'll do him good too. The medical student signed from amateurs Zwart Wit '28 is not the most humble of men. And prior to the big match was to be found in newspaper interviews saying how much better he will be than injured No.1 goalkeeper Eddy Treytel ever was.

The Feyenoord defeat came hard on another blow for Rotterdam. Six days previously Sparta had gone down 0-1 to lowly AZ '67 in Alkmaar. The significance of the result was that Ajax were able to climb a further two points from them and quash any Sparta dreams of challenging for second place.

Before the AZ game in fact, they were bu three points in arrears. And having thrashed Ajax 3-1 in December were due to meet them again—in Amsterdam.

A week previous to the Alkmaar fixture, Sparta had gone to Spain, where, in a none-too-friendly friendly they had bulldozed their way to a 0-1 win over Barcelona. AZ '67 was therefore considered a formality. AZ served up some pretty basic stuff but Sparta could not even set up a clear scoring chance. What happened? Goalkeeper Pim Doesburg explained without excuses. "We just had an off day," he said.

Key figure

Nevertheless, under 29-year-old Leo Steegman, the league's youngest trainer, Sparta have impressed this season. Re-establishing themselves after an unsatisfactory 1971-72 season, they have scored 59 goals from 22 games compared with nearest rivals FC Twente's 33. And they're four points clear of the rest of the field.

One particular February afternoon while Feyenoord were beating FC Groningen 5-1, Sparta were making it Rotterdam Sunday by beating FC Utrecht 1-5 on the latter's home ground. That was the afternoon an Austrian by the name of Willy Kreuz pushed Johan Cruyff off the top scorer's spot by netting three of them.

Willy Kreuz, the new scourge of Dutch defences, has emerged a key figure in the absence of injured Janusz Kowalik. Signed from Admira Wacker of Vienna, he came with a reputation for getting goals being Austria's top scorer in 1970-71.

From football to commerce. And the sight of Volendam players sporting advertisements on their shirts!

The story began when the club's press chief announced a sponsor had been found for the club in Radio Veronica, the pirate radio ship floating off the Dutch coast. What's more first division Volendam would play the rest of the season with a big V on their shirts and a drawing of a boat.

Advertising

To be fair no one said anything about advertising but we all rushed for the rule book where we duly read under article 32 that advertising on shirts during the game is not allowed.

While we waited for action from the Koninklijke Nederlandse Voetbalbond, a second announcement emerged from Volendam. The big V on the shorts stood for Volendam, the club said, and the boat represented the town's association with the sea.

Jan Huijbregts, secretary of the KNVB's pro section, commented cannily: "This is some sort of advertising." Then he added: "It'll be difficult to do anything though because of the way Volendam have done it."

A few days later he was more definite: "If they go on saying the V stands for Volendam there's nothing we can do."

What did they say that V sign meant again?

EASTERN EUROPE

Niculescu replaced by Stanescu

RUMANIA

RUMANIAN team manager Angelo Niculescu, one time manager of Dinamo Bucharest was recently relieved of his duties and replaced by Valentin Stanescu. Five years ago Niculescu took over after a 7-0 defeat against Switzerland and completely re-organised the national team with such effect that they qualified for the World Cup in Mexico for the first time ever.

Hailed as a hero then, Niculescu has since been criticised for being too friendly with his players and apparently allowing them to become complacent.

This is the official reason, though cynics believe that the dropping of a World Cup point in the 1-1 draw against Finland in Helsinki was the start of Niculescu's problems.

Reputation

The new manager was previously in charge of the Bucharest Army team Steaua whom he joined in 1971. He has made a reputation for himself as a strict disciplinarian and has been successful with several clubs during the last 20 years.

Now 50 years he took his new squad to France and Spain where the results achieved were only mediocre. In France the Rumanians were beaten 1-0 by Nimes though this was followed by the introduction of several young uncapped players who beat Espanol 2-0 in Barcelona.

Finally, before returning to Bucharest they earned a 1-1 draw against a combined Sevilla-Betis XI.

This appointment came as a surprise for it was taken for granted that the Ajax manager (himself a former Steaua manager) would get the number one job with the national team when he returns in July. Instead Kovacs will fill a new post: Technical Director of all Rumanian teams at every level.

Spartak defender Logofet (left) challenges Chiaruggi of AC Milan during their Cup Winners' Cup tie in Moscow.

SPARTAK MANAGER IS CRITICAL...

RUSSIA

AT a meeting of First Division club managers in Russia, one of the most outspoken critics was Spartak manager Nikita Simonian. Alexander Sevidov, manager of Dynamo Kiev also complained of too many changes and too many international matches as well as the difficulties of seeing that national team players train according to the orders of the FA technical experts.

The FA appears anxious to limit the number of matches played in the league which is trapped by the long winter. For the 1973 campaign, however, there will be no change with a thirty match programme but under new regulations league games can only be played at week-ends.

This is a bid to enable the players to train more which has often been impossible due to the long distances clubs have to travel.

The most Eastly First Division club, Kairat Alma Ata, travelled almost 70,000 miles to complete their league programme last season.

It is also significant that the champions Zarja Vorochilovgrad were the most fortunate in this respect—travelling only around 20,000 miles.

New transfer regulations have been introduced to limit any First Division club to three transfers per year. Players are now barred from transferring from one First Division club to another apart from transfers between the Army teams.

Special FA permission must also be obtained before a player can transfer to a club in a lower Division.

None of these regulations applies to managers and coaches however. Former international Vitalij Chmelnitzki has been released by Dynamo Kiev and takes over as manager of Division II club Buriak of Cernomoretz.

The big surprise is the decision of the champions manager German Zonin to rejoin his old club Zenith Leningrad.

Zarja's new manager is Vselevod Blinkov who played for Moscow Dynamo in the 1940's.

SWISS DEST
REMAIN SMA

LIKE their colleagues in Austria and Sweden the Swiss have been unable to match the rise of the powerful professional clubs of Italy, England and West Germany. Without any heavy industries and their attendant densely populated areas, many Swiss clubs are small town teams. Even in Zurich, the administrative centre of European and world football there are three clubs—Grasshoppers, FC Zurich and the Young Fellows—now in Division II struggling for support.

As has been seen elsewhere, clubs can only rise to eminence in one of two ways in these days of highly professionalised soccer as a business. The only long term way is to base real progress on a high level of gate receipts though the other—obtaining the financial support of a business or group of businessmen.

The latter have a disconcerting habit of losing interest after some years and this is underlined after periods of relative success. In the early post war years the southern part of the country generally set the pace with Servette, Lausanne and several small town teams taking the championship. Generally it was the French speaking area that dominated.

Sophisticated

At their peak La Chaux de Fonds were surprisingly successful; perhaps because the club and players were prepared to work at the game while their relatively richer rivals in the big cities were content to lead a more sophisticated life.

It is the northern, German speaking region that now sets the pace and inevitably the clubs have imported large numbers of German players and coaches. The game to some extent has been modernised though the players invariably are those who failed to make the grade at home.

Meanwhile the Swiss born players are still bound by the SFV's amateur rules despite the quite high transfer fees often paid and widely publicised. To the Swiss it is sufficient proof that a player is an amateur if he has a job outside the game.

LEADING SCORERS

Friedlander (Grasshopp'rs)	25
Amado (Grasshoppers)	19
Blaser (Young Boys)	19
Righetti (Grenchen)	26
Fatton (Servette)	21
Fatton (Servette)	32
Friedlander (Lausanne)	22
Hugi (Basle FC)	24
Hugi (Basle FC)	32
Meier (Young Boys)	32
Hugi (Basle FC)	29
Mauron (Chaux de Fonds)	30
Vukosaljevic (Grassh'p'rs)	33
Kauer (Chaux de Fonds)	29
Wechselberger (Y'ng B'ys)	22
Meier (Young Boys)	24
Schneider (Young Boys)	25
Robbiani (Grasshoppers)	27
Fatton (Servette)	25
Von Burg (FC Zurich)	24
Desbiolles (Servette)	23
Blattler (Grasshoppers)	19
Kerkhoffs (Lausanne)	19
Blattler (Grasshoppers)	28
Blattler (Grasshoppers)	24
Kunzli (FC Zurich)	24
Kunzli (FC Zurich)	28
Peters (FC Basle)	24
Kunzli (FC Zurich)	19
Muller (W) (Young Boys)	19
Dimmeler (Winterthur)	17
Dorfel (Servette)	17

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SUCCESSES

Grasshoppers	16
Servette	13
Young Boys	10
Lausanne	7
FC Zurich	6
Basle FC	5
Chaux de Fonds	4
Winterthur	3
FC Lugano	3
St. Gallen	2
FC Aarau	2
Cantonal FC	1
Bellinzona	1
Biel FC	1

FA CUP VICTORIES

Grasshoppers	13
Lausanne	6
Chaux de Fonds	6
Young Boys	4
Basle FC	4
Servette	3
FC Zurich	3
FC Lugano	2
Urania FC	1
Young Fellows	1
FC Grenchen	1
FC Luzern	1
Sion FC	1
St. Gallen	1

		P	W	D	L	Goals F.A.	P
1945–46	Servette	26	16	4	6	55.33	36
1946–47	FC Biel	26	14	8	4	60.32	36
1947–48	Bellinzona	26	15	8	3	58.28	38
1948–49	Lugano	26	18	4	4	41.18	40
1949–50	Servette	26	16	3	7	73.41	35
1950–51	Lausanne	26	14	6	6	58.31	34
1951–52	Grasshoppers	26	16	6	4	79.38	38
1952–53	Basle FC	26	17	8	1	72.38	42
1953–54	La Chaux de Fonds	26	20	2	4	78.36	42
1954–55	La Chaux de Fonds	26	19	4	3	99.46	42
1955–56	Grasshoppers	26	19	4	3	94.36	42
1956–57	Young Boys	26	21	3	2	76.22	45
1957–58	Young Boys	26	20	3	3	76.37	43
1958–59	Young Boys	26	16	6	4	79.42	38
1959–60	Young Boys	26	20	2	4	86.44	42
1960–61	Servette	26	23	–	3	77.29	46
1961–62	Servette	26	18	4	4	93.30	40
1962–63	FC Zurich	26	20	4	2	81.33	44
1963–64	La Chaux de Fonds	26	17	5	4	68.36	39
1964–65	Lausanne	26	15	6	6	61.32	36
1965–66	FC Zurich	26	18	6	2	73.25	42
1966–67	Basle FC	26	16	8	2	61.20	40
1967–68	FC Zurich	26	16	6	4	63.27	38
1968–69	Basle FC	26	13	10	3	48.28	36
1969–70	Basle FC	26	15	7	4	59.23	37
1970–71	*Grasshoppers	26	20	2	4	59.21	42
1971–72	Basle FC	26	18	7	1	66.28	43

Note:

* After play off: Grasshoppers 4–3 v Basle FC

FA CUP FINALS

Grasshoppers	3	Lausanne	0
Basle FC	3	Lausanne	0
Chaux de Fonds	4	FC Grenchen	0*
Servette	3	Grasshoppers	0
Lausanne	4	Cantonal FC	0**
Chaux de Fonds	3	Locarno	2
Grasshoppers	2	FC Lugano	0
Young Boys	3	Grasshoppers	1**
Chaux de Fonds	2	Fribourg	0
Chaux de Fonds	3	FC Thurn	1
Grasshoppers	1	Young Boys	0
Chaux de Fonds	3	Lausanne	1
Young Boys	4	Grasshoppers	1**
FC Grenchen	1	Servette	0
FC Luzern	1	FC Grenchen	0
Chaux de Fonds	1	Biel FC	0
Lausanne	4	Bellinzona	0
Basle FC	2	Grasshoppers	0
Lausanne	2	Chaux de Fonds	0
Sion FC	2	Servette	1
FC Zurich	2	Servette	0
Basle FC	2	Lausanne	1
FC Lugano	2	Winterthur	1
St. Gallen	2	Bellinzona	0
FC Zurich	4	Basle FC	1
Servette	2	FC Lugano	1
FC Zurich	1	Basle FC	0

Notes:

* After two 2–2 draws

** After 1–1 draw

STINED TO MALL TIME

Post-war survey . . . by Eric Batty

This, for many of the signings from professional countries, can be a position with his club as coach to the junior teams. With the backing of wealthy business men, the big clubs of Zurich and Basle have almost completely dominated the game.

In the last eight years the league championship has gone to one of these two cities and only in the SFV Cup have Servette and Lugano been successful in their bid to re-assert themselves.

Lugano and Servette (Geneva) have also attracted money to their clubs but been unable to match the efforts of the German speaking region. This is the second period of domination by the German speaking cantons, the first coming during the war years.

Then it was Grasshoppers, the traditional giants who won the FA Cup six times in seven seasons under the guidance of Karl Rappan.

Under Rappan's leadership the Swiss national team also achieved considerable success in qualifying for several World Cup competitions. In recent years the national team has inevitably been based on the Basle-Zurich axis and has achieved a creditable degree of success.

In matches against Italy and England the Swiss have proved they still have the necessary craft and skill to match the best but due to the "amateur" basis of their game they lack the power and physical qualities that are pre-eminent in the game today and there is little that can be done to remedy this.

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AFRICA

PAUL WADE talks to Mr. Tessema, Chairman of the African Confederation, who says

WE MUST QUALIFY BUT ON MERIT

IT was interesting to talk to two top African officials about the development of the game in the Continent while I was in Lagos. I met Mr. Tessema of Ethiopia, the Chairman of the African Football Confederation and Mr. Oyo, Secretary of the Nigerian Football Association, a former A.F.C. committee member.

Mr. Tessema emphasised the strong bond between the A.F.C. and FIFA who provide them with coaches, referees' courses and so on to help develop the game, but he surprised me by insisting that he was against the idea that Africa or Asia should have a representative in the last sixteen of the World Cup.

"The Competition," he told me, "is FIFA's showpiece representing the best the game can offer. I do not want Africa to let the side down and be a cause for the failure of the World Cup by taking away some of the glamour." When I pointed out that neither North Korea nor Morocco in 1966 and 1970 had disgraced themselves, he argued that these were exceptions.

"I don't expect that North Korea will ever beat Italy again. But in the near future I hope that an African nation will qualify for the finals *on merit*". And when we talked about world famous African players like Eusebio playing for European clubs he again surprised me by saying that he was very much *against* Africans joining foreign clubs. "Africa will be regarded as a reservoir of talent that will be tapped by European clubs who can afford to give Africans greater financial rewards. This will stunt the growth of the game in Africa."

And he had no great hopes for professionalism in the near future. "With the social and economic conditions in the developing countries of Africa, professionalism is out of the question. No club—even with gates of 30 or 40,000 people—could gather enough money to pay for the players boots let alone provide salaries that were high enough to pay for housing and their children's education."

Attracted

There was a negative effect, too. Youngsters would be attracted to sign pro forms before they had finished their secondary education. Subsequently an injury could force them out of the game at 25 and they would have no other career to turn to. "Professionalism must be secure enough to guarantee a player a sound future."

And was there, I asked, any lesson that Europe and South America could learn from Africa? "Yes—loyalty and love of a club. In Britain you can play for Manchester United one week and then be transferred and play against them the following week. In the professional game, love of a club and even of your country is impossible."

Mr. Tessema's opinions are perhaps a little conservative, in sharp contrast with Nigeria's Mr. Oyo, who told me that he expected professionalism in Nigeria in the next five years. Nigeria has a national league which started very successfully with eight clubs last year and will be increased to ten this year spread all over the country. The game is organised at the grass roots with national competitions for primary and secondary schools as well as technical schools and teachers' training colleges.

Chances

No longer will Nigeria's national side (the Green Eagles) play visiting club sides from Europe or South America. "We will match club with club, national side with national side and take our chances. When Dundee United came out here last summer and more recently a Danish side, our results were promising."

Obviously international competition in Africa itself helped to raise standards but

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AFRICA

Nigeria has lived too long in the shadow of Ghana. As all competitions are on a regional elimination basis, Ghana holds some sort of hoodoo for Nigeria.

Overcome

"As soon as we can overcome this, we will do well. I am sure our win at the Lagos Games shows we're on the way. The African Clubs Championship has been shared by several countries. Zaire have had two wins, Ghana two, Cameroons two and clubs from the Ivory Coast and Guinea have also won. The Nations Cup, too, has done the rounds with Ghana (2), Egypt (2), Ethiopia and Zaire showing how all corners of Africa takes anything for granted when it comes to football."

And of all the problems (apart from money) that face African football, Mr. Oyo singled out one—travel.

"It may surprise you to know that if Nigeria have to play Egypt in Cairo, say on a Friday, the only way to get there by air in time for the match is to go via Rome. You can imagine the cost. The A.F.C. asked I.A.T.A. for some sort of discount on fares, but so far without success. At least the Nigerian Football Association will get more money if they can fill the new National Stadium in Lagos. We hope to triple our annual income with good gates."

Coaching

But one aspect of the game in Africa worried him.

"As clubs and national associations need more money all the time, they often have to get it from their governments. This is all right if the governments give it to them with no strings attached, but often the government and sports councils attempt to dictate policy to the clubs and this is dangerous. But the A.F.C. is getting more power and respect, although they are desperately short of money. We want to have our own coaching schemes, even our own football school, so we ask the National Associations to play special matches to raise funds for the A.F.C., so that money can be made available to develop the game in Africa."

And whoever I talked to in West Africa, they all enthused about the development of football—the world game.

MOROCCO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fes	14	9	3	2	28	10	35
Kenitra	14	6	7	1	21	14	33
WAC	14	7	5	2	16	11	33
El Jadida	14	5	6	3	12	8	30
Tas	14	6	4	4	18	14	30
Mohammedia	14	5	4	5	21	19	28
Oujda	14	5	4	5	13	12	28
FUS	14	3	8	3	11	11	28
Raja	14	5	4	5	20	22	28
Beni Mellal	14	5	4	5	12	17	28
Khenigset	14	4	5	5	12	12	27
Settat	14	2	7	5	11	12	25
ADM	14	3	4	7	19	12	24
Far	14	1	8	5	12	17	24
Sidi Kacem	14	2	6	6	11	19	24
Youssoufia	14	3	3	8	19	18	23

Winsor Dobbin reports

FIFA decision was a blow

A TREMENDOUS blow to South Africa's hopes of regaining entry to F.I.F.A. was struck in February when the international body refused to recognise the "multi-national" South African Games to be held in Pretoria. The refusal of F.I.F.A. to grant recognition which had previously been granted meant that the National Amateur sides of England and Brazil had to withdraw from the competition which was to have been the first multi-racial event of its kind to be held in South Africa featuring soccer.

The competition will however go on as planned with just four participating teams: SA Coloureds, SA Bantus, SA Indians and SA Whites. All sides will be granted exactly the same privileges, and apartheid will be swept aside for the week of the competition. Many soccer officials in South Africa feel the tournament will prove very little anyway, as participants have to be amateurs, and all the best footballers, white or black, are, naturally, professionals.

Transfer

In the transfer market dealing has been, as expected, brisk, with all teams desperate to fill in the gaps before the beginning of the League in the first week in March. Happily both Port Elizabeth City and East London Utd, both of whom were in financial difficulties, have managed to pull through.

Port Elizabeth found a saviour in the unexpected personage of Springbok cricketer Graeme Pollock. Pollock, who had previously not been very interested in soccer, decided that a town the size of port Elizabeth should easily be able to support an N.F.L. side and, after being elected chairman at an emergency meeting, proceeded to immediately set about raising the funds to make P.E. City great again.

East London received plenty of support from local businessmen and, after earlier announcing their withdrawal, also managed to announce their participation. They have in the air a benefit game against glamour club Hellenic which should net them some valuable revenue. P.E. City have already played Hellenic in a similar match, and, to the astonishment of all, beat them 3-2. From all reports they played with great spirit, and many I have spoken to reckon that with a couple of new players could prove a force this season.

Hellenic, as expected, walked away with the pre-season Champion of Champion's competition. Their aristocratic soccer made both Durban City and Durban Utd look very mediocre and there is a definite feeling in the air that this season could see Durban Celtic take over as a power in the coastal town. In addition to Bobby Tambling and Owen Dawson, the "Banana Boys" have signed striker Barrie Fairbrother from Orient, and have hopes of getting Charlie Cooke out on a six-week guest contract.

Display

Durban City showed just how drastically short of players they are when manager Budgie Byrne (the ex West Ham and England star) was forced to turn out at centre forward. Byrne, at least two stone overweight, still turned in a display which left many of his lesser opponents gasping with admiration. Although slow, Byrne was still skilful enough to make opponents half his age look stupid. The hoots which greeted his appearance on the field were soon replaced by well deserved cheers.

Some recent signings by South African clubs from overseas include:

Tony Potrac: Chelsea to Durban City.
Mike Pentecost: Fulham to Durban City.
Dugald McLachlan: Preston to Durban City.
Jurgen Sperlich: Hertha Berlin to Durban City.
Ivan Hollett: Hereford Utd to Durban Utd.
Charlie Smith: Partick Thistle to Maritzburg.
Craig Watson: Morton to Highlands Park.
Keith East: Folkestone to Rangers.
Gerry Farrell: Blackburn to Rangers.
Tony Weston: Gillingham to Berea Park.

Lusitanos newly promoted to the First Division, have signed four Brazilians, but as yet little is known of them.

EUROPE

HUNGARY

by LESLIE VERNON

FOR so long the neglected orphan-child of Hungarian football, the domestic cup at last has earned respectability. The FA, determined to inject some life into the tournament, have introduced several reforms which make it more attractive for spectators and clubs alike. They have warned all entrants that the games must be taken seriously, and if any of the First Division sides field a weakened team or offers only token resistance, fines will be imposed and League points deducted.

As a bait, it was promised that the beaten finalists will be nominated next season either for the UEFA Cup or for the Mitropa Cup.

Incentive

As in the past, the top division clubs were drawn against lower divisional opponents, and the matches were played on the outsiders' grounds. An additional incentive was that in the case of a stalemate, the lower divisional club would progress into the next round.

So, with "giant-killing" made comparatively easy, every game had some interest, especially for the provincial fans who had an opportunity to see the stars in action live instead of the one-dimensional TV images.

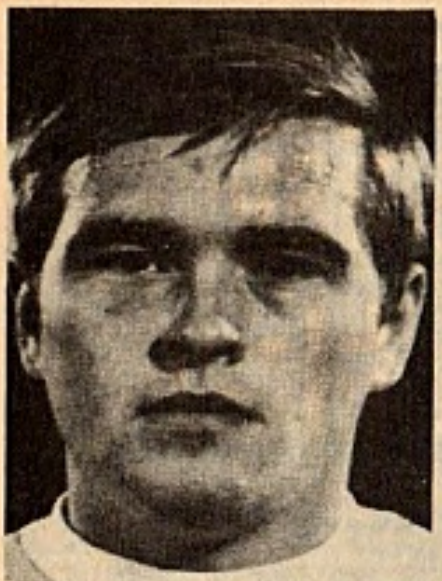
Borrowing an idea from the Scottish League Cup, the ties were played-off before the League season opened, thus serving a dual purpose. The football-hungry supporters flocked to the grounds, and the players were able to get match practice on competitive level.

The First Round proper was played on February 22, and four Division One outfits were bundled out, amongst them the holders, Ferencvaros. They were beaten 3-1 at Dunaujvaros, Pecs lost by the same score against BVSC, Komlo could only draw at Kazibarcika, and SBTC finished level—2-2—with Szolnok.

At this stage, few people suspected that the Second Division Szolnok would become the sensation of the competition. In fact, four days later they beat Zalaegerszeg 1-0 in Round Two, which also saw MTK out, and even more surprisingly, Ujpest Dozsa. The champs lost at home to Videoton 2-1 in an exciting match, and nobody could have accused Bene and Co. of not trying. The full results: Videoton 2 Doza 1; Vasas 5 Diosgyor 2; Honved 2 BVSC 0; Raba 2 Dunaujvaros 1; Tatabany 4 Szeged 1; Kazincbarcika 1 Egyetertes 0; Szolonok 1 Zalaegerszeg 0; Spartacus 0 MTG 0.

Penalty

The quarter-finals were fought on March 1, and Szolnok continued their amazing run with a goalless draw against Raba, which was enough to take them into the semis, where they meet Vasas. The Baroti-team beat Spartacus 3-2 with the help of a controversial penalty awarded for a foul, and converted by Varadi. Videoton ended Kazibarcika's glory-trail with a 2-0 win, and the top form Honved beat last year's runners-up, Tataganya, 2-1.



Muha of Ferencvaros.

Facchetti

ITALY

by PHILIP EVANS

THE Italian national team did what it had to do, and won the second game in Turkey after that initial goalless draw in Naples; 1-0, thanks to Anastasi, with many questions left unasked and other left unanswered. All very true to form.

In January I suggested that Morini, the Juventus stopper, was a player who markedly deserved an international chance. Against the Turks, and thanks to an injury to Rosato, Morina played embarrassingly well—emphatically underlining the miserable form in which many of his colleagues found themselves.

Glowing exception to this was Facchetti, returned from the wildnerness into which he had so boorishly been cast by Valcareggi last summer. Of course he is no longer the overlapping greyhound that he used to be. But his defensive work has improved in inverse ratio to velocity; and few have ever understood the delicacies of wing-forward play as astutely as he. Above all else, his moral authority is a facet that Valcareggi will ignore at his peril: not a Picchi—a goader and commander, but always a superb exampler of rare gifts.

Riva also played well, might have scored two goals, and may well have been irresistible given the support of Rivera—who missed the match through injury. That isn't intended to seem cynical, and one hopes that Gianni will continue to be regarded as the important members of the national team, not as the resurrected scapegoat at each failure.

Humiliated

Enough. It was not, and could never have been, one of the matches of the year, and the sad thing is that it requires comment at all. A drowsy nod at the information that the Italians had twice humiliated Turkey would have been more appropriate, but no. Would-be martyrs have to suffer their statutory periods of flagellation.

Apropos the league, Milan are two points clear at the top as I write, put there by the defeat of Juventus in the second Torinese derby. Torino also won the first, the only team to beat Juventus this season, and there is in Italy one city at least where Giagnoni can walk tall.

A fortnight earlier Juventus travelled to San Siro and held Rivera and company to a draw—goals early in each half against goals late in each half, with a potentially important victory snatched away five minutes from time and by Biasiolo.

The first Milan goal was a Rivera penalty, one which brought to a close

EUROPE

CUP CONTEST IS BOOSTED

Attendances were high at most of the games, the interest at fever-pitch, and the May 1 Final in the Nepstadium should be an exciting climax to a competition which has given notice that there is still a great deal of life in the Hungarian game.

Another healthy sign is that the provincial centres have begun to realise that they have a better chance of survival if united, than if they continue to indulge in parochial rivalries.

Pecsi Doza, languishing in the relegation zone, called several meetings in this town situated in the southern part of the country, and as a result, four of the local clubs amalgamated. They will use the Dozsa ground for football, and the smaller centres which become available, will be utilised for other sports. The new club, reinforced by three players, opened the League season with a 2-0 win, and their future seems bright.

The same operation took place in Kecskemet, and this Second Division outfit are now strong candidates for promotion. The message is clear for the other small towns and cities, and perhaps this blueprint could be adopted in England too—it could make a difference between solvency and bankruptcy.

The main talking-point is still the mystery surrounding the affairs of Ferencvaros. People connected with this great and popular club choose an uncharacteristic tight-lipped silence instead of the usual Chekovian outpouring of recriminations and grief. Coach Ferenc Csanadi is at loggerheads with the players, and didn't go with them to their pre-season training-camp get-together. Dezso Novak, ex-player and assistant manager, ran the show, and it was confidently expected that Csanadi would resign. He did, but the club insisted on the contractual arrangements, and plonked him back into the driving-seat.

At the same time, Albert and Ku were forgiven and recalled into the first team squad. "Flori" immediately re-joined his colleagues, but Jajos Ku is still sulking and wishes to stay in exile.

It is difficult to judge how the players feel about Albert's return into the fold. He has always been a controversial figure, idolised by some, deeply disliked by others. I am one of his fans, and sincerely hope that he'll play well enough to silence the critics. At 31, he has a lot more to offer, and it would be a tragedy if petty squabbles would force him out of the game.

Hanging-mobs

That sorry fate befell Maszoly and Parkas recently, who offended their Vasas colleagues with their irresponsible behaviour off the field. Although the management was willing to give them "one more chance", the players froze them out, and two outstanding footballers eventually retired prematurely.

I do not condone the drinking habits of these so-called sportsmen, who ought to know better, but it is the job of the coaches and directors to keep order—too much power exercised by the dressing-room hanging-mobs is bad for the game.

returns to shine

Zoff's record for having remained unbeaten in 903 minutes of play. Damning commentary indeed on the Italian game, and it was good to note that afterwards Zoff was still able to shrug his shoulders —"Such records are fine for goalkeepers and no fun at all for the paying public." Nice man, Dino Zoff, so much less egotist than most.

But the point stands and underlines the strength of Milan. Forty-five goals this season, with Juventus—their nearest challengers in both senses—only able to manage 27. That in 21 games! As for Palermo and Vicenza, neither have managed more than eight. All testimony indeed that the remedy lies with adventurous changes in attitude, not assinine tampering with the laws.

As war may be deemed too important to be left to the generals, so football incessantly runs the risk of being butched by the administrators through every fault of its generals. Morals all round it appears, except in Italy, where masochism runs so high that even a recital by Trappist monks might fill the Stadio Olympico.

Apart from that point against Juventus, Milan thrashed Vicenza 3-0 away, thanks to a sublime performance from Rivera; then dissected Fiorentina the following Sunday with a further brace of goals, both scored by Benetti. I've said it before, and I'll say it again — Rivera and Benetti must be the first names on to paper if the Italians are to stand a chance of getting to Munich and there cutting some sort of figure. The Mutt and Jeff routine may be considered neanderthal in many quarters, but it still works when others more subtle fail.

Inter went to Caligri and won by the odd goal in five, took two points off Verona at San Siro, travelled to Naples and lost by two goals. The team continues to be ridden by internal dissension—Mazzola can't play with Corso, Boninsegna can't play with either, Bedin and Bertini play for themselves, and so forth. Invernizzi's contract expires in June and already the vultures are gathering to pick him off. All ludicrous, and with his talent for getting the best out of young players, the most sensible course would undoubtedly be that of allowing him to build the team up with new talent. Optimis, that; and Inter will continue to lurch unhappily along, hoping for the failure of others.

Lazio go along nicely, with maximum points from the last three games and still only three points behind Milan. The triump of triumphs undoubtedly was the annihilation of Roma in the second derby, so important from the point of view of prestige and the need to catch the floating voters for the next season ticket campaign: 2-0 to Lazio, that one, with Helenio Herrera's nose being firmly rubbed in the dirt.

Ken Goldman talks to JIMMY ADAMSON—

Manager of promotion candidates Burnley

INDIVIDUALITY SHOULD REMAIN

Q.: What is the greatest problem you face as Manager of Burnley?

A.: Whilst every Manager has his individual problems mine in the main revolves round the fact that whilst we produce and develop a wealth of talent at Burnley we have had to sell some of the best to remain financially solvent.

Q.: What about competition from other clubs for that footballing talent?

A.: This is a big headache for whereas we were at one time innovators in promoting youth football and coaching this is not so any more since nearly all the clubs big or small have similar schemes. We are also in great competition with other clubs because the geographical area in which we are situated contains a proliferation of teams.

Q.: Has your League status any bearing on the competition to secure the best young players?

A.: Yes. It is extremely important for us to gain promotion to Division One in order to encourage the best youngsters to come to us. Certainly we have facilities at our training ground at Gawthorpe which I believe are second to none.

Q.: What effect do you think coaching should have on players?

A.: I believe that it is important not to coach the individuality out of a player but to try to make him use his abilities to work for the rest of the side. If you can find some players with ability and who are responsible within the framework of the team you obtain both good individuals and a good team.

Q.: Are there are particular coaching routines that you use?

A.: Yes. I use shadow play as an aid to promote knowledge amongst players of their team colleagues' strengths and weaknesses and also for dead-ball work. It should not be overdone however. We also play small-sided team games and 4 v 2 situations.

Q.: What is the effect of pressure on a Manager?

A.: Pressure is bad in all divisions of the Football League, whether you are at the top or the bottom for most contracts are geared to success. One must however stick to one's principles and show confidence to the players and above all be honest with them.

Q.: Is fault-finding an important part of the job?

A.: I should say that it was. One has to be perceptive enough to appreciate whether when something goes wrong on the field involving a player it is that player's fault or that of a team mate. It is no good apportioning the mistake to the wrong person. One also has to know what motivates each particular player so that you can use the proverbial stick or carrot method on him.

Leighton James of Burnley.

Encourage

Q.: What do you say to the team at halftime?

A.: I feel that halftime analysis is vital so that I try to instruct the players to think for themselves during the second half. I might suggest that the full backs switch over, or encourage an interchange between compatible players and positions.

Q.: What are your views on substitutes?

A.: The use of the substitute has become of increasing import. When or where to put him on, saving him for special jobs, or as an insurance against injury—these and other aspects have to be very carefully thought about. My philosophy is not to play for safety and only keep the sub for injury purposes. Instead if a player is off form I have no compunction in pulling him off no matter what the state of the game or however early on.

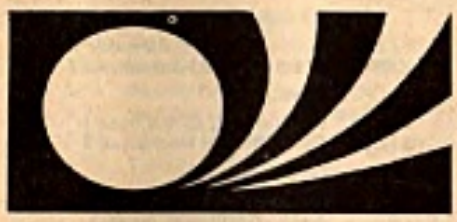
Q.: Do you believe in attacking football?

A.: Yes. I am in favour of this and we always attack at home whatever the opposition. However, I feel that open attacking football might more easily come about if there were to be a change in the offside law. I would prefer that it be scrapped rather than modified in accordance with some recent experiments.

Q.: What is your ambition as a Manager?

A.: I am as I said a great believer in the individuality of players and their role in the team unit, so that I hope one day to be in the position where I can tell my players to go out and win using whatever system they themselves chose to employ.

ASIA



WM 74

MARCH 4
(Auckland)

New Zealand and Australia drew 1-1 in their first match in the Asian Group Two of the World Cup qualifying tournament. Both goals were scored in the second half, **Turner** for New Zealand and **Campbell** for Australia.

MARCH 11
(Sydney)

Australia hardened as favourites to win the Asian Group Two after beating Iraq 3-1. London-born **Ray Richards** set Australia on the victory path with a 49th minute goal and then **Adrian Alston** clinched the match with goals in the 80th and 85th minutes. **Riad Nuri** reduced the deficit for Iraq in the final minute.

On the same day, New Zealand were held at a 1-1 draw by Indonesia. New Zealand paid heavily for their poor finishing and Indonesia went ahead against the run of play after 13 minutes through **Sarman Panggabean.** It was not until 16 minutes from time that New Zealand managed to equalise through **A. Vest.**

MARCH 13
(Sydney)

Australia had to battle grimly to beat Indonesia 2-1. Indonesia were unlucky not to snatch an equaliser in the last second of the match which would have given them a thoroughly deserved point. All the goals came in the first half. **Ernie Campbell** put Australia ahead in the 23rd minute. **Iswadi** equalised after 36 minutes but **Adrian Alston** restored Australia's lead three minutes before half time.

Iraq kept alive their hopes of qualifying for the World Cup finals with a fine 2-0 win over New Zealand. Iraq scored both goals in the first half and then withstood tremendous New Zealand pressure after the interval. The first goal came when winger **Bashar Rashid** burst through the New Zealand defence and ended his run with a fine shot into the right hand corner of the net. Iraq's second goal was a more scrambled affair, with striker **Sabah Hattem** tapping the ball past the New Zealand goalkeeper after it had rebounded off the chest of a Kiwi defender. New Zealand threw everything into attack in the second half but again poor finishing let them down.

MARCH 16
(Sydney)

Australia's hopes of qualifying for the 1974 World Cup finals received a setback when they were held to a 3-3 draw by New Zealand. Australia led 3-1 at half-time through their superior play in front of a 14,000 crowd. But New Zealand staged a tremendous fight back to eventually draw level. **Utjesenovic, Baartz and Buljevic** scored for Australia; **Vest, Tindall and Hoggs** for New Zealand.

MARCH 16
(Sydney)

Iraq's World Cup aspirations also received a setback with their 1-1 draw against Indonesia. Both goals came during the first half with Iraq and Indonesia concentrating on defence in the second period. **Ali Kurim** opened the scoring for Iraq while **Iswadi** equalised for Indonesia.

MARCH 18
(Melbourne)

Iraq drew 0-0 with Australia, despite a heavy second half assault by the home side. Australia tried desperately to get the goal that would have made them favourites to win this 12-match group but could not break down the Iraq defence.

MARCH 18
(Melbourne)

Indonesia beat New Zealand 1-0 through an own goal scored by Kiwi full back **Maurice Tillotson** in the first half. With three matches still to be played, Australia, Indonesia and Iraq all have a chance of progressing further in the competition.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia.. ..	5	2	3	0	9	6	7
Indonesia ..	4	1	2	1	4	4	4
Iraq	4	1	2	1	4	4	4
New Zealand ..	5	0	3	2	5	8	3

INDIA SAY 'NO'

ZURICH:

India has withdrawn from the 1974 World Cup competition. FIFA said the All-India Football Federation in Bombay had cabled FIFA headquarters announcing their decision. FIFA had sent a message back asking for the reason for the Indian withdrawal. FIFA added that the Asian sub-group B-2 now consisted only of Iran, Kuwait and Syria.

NORTH KOREA SAY 'YES'

ZURICH:

North Korea have applied to take the place of India in the qualifying rounds of the 1974 World Cup. North Korea's original entry arrived too late to be considered and they were excluded, but informed that their request would be considered if there were any withdrawals. North Korea have asked to be applied to compete in the Sub-Group B2 section, to be played in Iran in May. FIFA have promised a decision before the end of March.

The President of the Organising Committee of the 1974 World Cup finals presents the official poster for the championships, showing a multi-coloured player in action. The posters will be given out in French, English, Spanish and German, and was designed by Horst Schafer.

WM 74

Results...dates...tables...res

AFRICA

First preliminary round

Group 1

19.11.72 Morocco 0, Senegal 0
3.12.72 Senegal 1, Morocco 2

Group 2

2. 3.72 Algeria 1, Guinea 0
12. 3.72 Guinea 5, Algeria 1

Second Preliminary Round

Guinea 1, Morocco 1
Morocco 2, Guinea 0

Group 3

8.12.72 AR Egypt 2, Tunisia 1
17.12.72 Tunisia 2, AR Egypt 0

Group 4

15.10.72 Sierra Leone 0, Ivory Coast 1
29.10.72 Ivory Coast 2, Sierra Leone 0

Second Preliminary Round

Tunisia 1, Ivory Coast 1
Ivory Coast 2, Tunisia 1

Group 5

16. 7.72 Kenya 2, Sudan 0
23. 7.72 Sudan 1, Kenya 0

Group 6

Mauritius v. Madagascar
Madagascar v. Mauritius
Madagascar withdrew

Second Preliminary Round

Kenya 3, Mauritius 1
Mauritius 2, Kenya 2

Group 7

25.11.72 Ethiopia 0, Tanzania 0
3.12.72 Tanzania 1, Ethiopia 1
Play-off Ethiopia 3, Tanzania 0

Group 8

30. 4.72 Lesotho 0, Zambia 0
4. 6.72 Zambia 6, Lesotho 1

Second Preliminary Round

1. 4.73 Ethiopia v. Zambia
15. 4.73 Zambia v. Ethiopia

Group 9

5. 8.72 Nigeria 2, Congo Brazza. 1
15. 8.72 Congo Brazza. 1, Nigeria 1

Group 10

18. 6.72 Dahomey 0, Ghana 5
2. 7.72 Ghana 5, Dahomey 1

Second Preliminary Round

Nigeria 2, Ghana 3
Ghana 1, Nigeria 1

Group 11

6. 6.72 Togo 0, Zaire 0
20. 6.72 Zaire 4, Togo 0

Group 12

Cameroons v. Gabon
Gabon v. Cameroons
Gabon withdrew

Second Preliminary Round

11. 2.73 Guinea v. Morocco
25. 2.73 Morocco v. Guinea
11. 2.73 Tunisia v. Ivory Coast
25. 2.73 Ivory Coast v. Tunisia
10.12.72 Mauritius 1, Kenya 3
17.12.72 Kenya 2, Mauritius 2
8. 4.73* Zambia v. Ethiopia
29. 4.73* Ethiopia v. Zambia
*provisional
10. 2.73 Nigeria v. Ghana
25. 2.73 Ghana v. Nigeria
4. 2.73 Cameroon v. Zaire
25. 2.73 Zaire v. Cameroon

CONCACAF

First preliminary round

Group 1

20. 8.72 Canada 3, USA 2
24. 8.72 Canada 0, Mexico 1
29. 8.72 USA 2, Canada 2
3.10.72 Mexico 3, USA 1
6.10.72 Mexico 2, Canada 1
10.10.72 USA 1, Mexico 2

Group 2

3.12.72 Guatemala 1, El Salvador 0
10.12.72 El Salvador 0, Guatemala 1

Group 3

3.12.72 Honduras 2, Costa Rica 1
10.12.72 Costa Rica 3, Honduras 3

Group 4

11. 6.72 Jamaica v. Neth. Antilles
Neth. Antilles v. Jamaica
Jamaica withdrew

Group 5

15. 4.72 Haiti 7, Puerto Rico 0
26. 9.72 Puerto 0, Haiti 5

Group 6

26.11.72 Surinam 1, Trinidad 2
30.11.72 Trinidad 1, Surinam 1
10.12.72 Surinam 3, Antigua 1
3.12.72 Antigua 0, Surinam 6
10.11.72 Trinidad 11, Antigua 1
19.11.72 Antigua 1, Trinidad 2

EUROPE

Group 1

14.11.71 Malta 0, Hungary 2
30. 4.72 Austria 4, Malta 0
6. 5.72 Hungary 3, Malta 0
25. 5.72 Sweden 0, Hungary 0
10. 6.72 Austria 2, Sweden 0
15.10.72 Sweden 7, Malta 0
15.10.72 Austria 2, Hungary 2
25.11.72 Malta 0 v. Austria 2
29. 4.73 Hungary v. Austria
24. 5.73 Sweden v. Austria
13. 6.73 Hungary v. Sweden
11.11.73 Malta v. Sweden

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria	4	3	1	0	10	2	7
Hungary	4	2	2	0	7	2	6
Sweden	3	1	1	1	7	2	3
Malta	5	0	0	5	0	18	0

Group 2

8.10.72 Luxembourg 0, Italy 4
21.10.72 Switzerland 0, Italy 0
22.10.72 Luxembourg 2, Turkey 0
10.12.72 Turkey 3, Luxembourg 0
13. 1.73 Italy 0, v. Turkey 0

Classified results ... European details ... league tables ... Classifie

EUROPEAN CUP

Quarter-finals first and second legs

Juventus (0) 0
Ujpest Dozsa (0) 0
Ujpest Dozsa (2) 2 (Bene, Toth)
Juventus (1) 2 (Altafini, Anastasi)

Spartak Trnava (1) 1 (Horvath)
Derby County (0) 0
Derby (1) 2 (Hector 2)
Spartak Trnava (0) 0

Dynamo Kiev (0) 0
Real Madrid (0) 0
Real Madrid (2) 3 (Santillana, Aguilar, Amancio)
Dynamo Kiev (0) 0

Ajax (0) 4 (Haan 2, Muhren, Cruyff)
Bayern Munich (0) 0
Bayern Munich (2) 2 (Muller 2)
Ajax (1) 1 (Keizer)

CUP WINNERS CUP

Quarter-finals first and second legs

Spartak Moscow (0) 0
AC Milan (0) 1 (Benetti)
AC Milan (1) 1 (Bigon)
Moscow Spartak (1) 1 (Piscarev)

Hibernian (2) 4 (Gordon 3, Duncan)
Hajduk Split (1) 2 (Hlevjnak 2)
Hajduk Split (2) 3 (Surjak, **Hlevnjak**, Blackley o.g.)
Hibernian (0) 0

Leeds United (3) 5 (Giles, Clarke, Lorimer 2, Jordan)
Rapid Bucharest (0) 0
Rapid Bucharest (0) 1 (Dimitru)
Leeds United (2) 3 (Jones 2, Bates)

Schalke (2) 2 (Ehmeke, Russmann)
Sparta Prague (1) 1 (Barton)
Spartak Prague (1) 3 (Jurkanin, Kara, Barton)
Schalke (0) 0

UEFA CUP

Quarter-finals first leg

Kaiserslautern (1) 1 (Danner)
Borussia Moenchengladbach (2) 2 (Toppmoller, Jensen)

sults...dates...tables...results

WM 74

25. 2.73 Turkey 0, v. Italy 1
31. 3.73 Italy v. Luxembourg
8. 4.73 Luxembourg v. Switzerland
9. 5.73 Switzerland v. Turkey
26. 9.73 Switzerland v. Luxembourg
20.10.73 Italy v. Switzerland
18.11.73 Turkey v. Switzerland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	4	2	2	0	5	0	6
Turkey	4	1	1	2	3	3	3
Luxemburg	3	1	0	2	2	7	2
Switzerland	1	0	1	0	0	0	1

Group 3

18. 5.72 Belgium 4, Iceland 0
22. 5.72 Iceland 0, Belgium 4 (In Belgium)
2. 8.72 Norway 4, Iceland 1
4.10.72 Norway 0, Belgium 2
1.11.72 Netherlands 9, Norway 0
19.11.72 Belgium 0 v. Netherlands 0
2. 8.73 Iceland v. Norway
22. 8.73 Netherlands v. Iceland
29. 8.73 Iceland v. Netherlands (In Netherlands)
12. 9.73 Norway v. Netherlands
31.10.73 Belgium v. Norway
18.11.73 Netherlands v. Belgium

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	4	3	1	0	10	0	7
Netherlands	2	1	1	0	9	0	3
Norway	3	1	0	2	4	12	2
Iceland	3	0	0	3	1	12	0

Group 4

21. 6.72 Finland 1, Albania 0
20. 9.72 Finland 1, Rumania 1
7.10.72 East Germany 5, Finland 0
29.10.72 Rumania 2, Albania 0
8. 4.73 East Germany v. Albania
6. 5.73 Albania v. Rumania
27. 5.73 Rumania v. East Germany
6. 6.73 Finland v. East Germany
26. 9.73 East Germany v. Rumania
10.10.73 Albania v. Finland
14.10.73 Rumania v. Finland
3.11.73 Albania v. East Germany

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rumania	2	1	1	0	3	1	3
Finland	3	1	1	1	2	6	3
East Germany	1	1	0	0	5	0	2
Albania	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

Group 5

17.10.73 England v. Poland
15.11.72 Wales 0 v. England 1
24. 1.73 England 1 v. Wales 1
28. 3.73 Wales v. Poland
6. 6.73 Poland v. England
26. 9.73 Poland v. Wales

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
Wales	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Poland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Group 6

29. 3.72 Portugal 4, Cyprus 0
10. 5.72 Cyprus 0, Portugal 1
18.10.72 Bulgaria 3, Northern Ireland 0
19.11.72 Cyprus 0 v. Bulgaria 4
14. 2.73 Cyprus 1, v. Northern Ireland 0
28. 3.73 Northern Ireland v. Portugal
2. 5.73 Bulgaria v. Portugal
9. 5.73 Northern Ireland v. Cyprus
26. 9.73 Northern Ireland v. Bulgaria
13.10.73 Portugal v. Bulgaria
14.11.73 Portugal v. Northern Ireland
18.11.73 Bulgaria v. Cyprus

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	2	2	0	0	7	0	4
Portugal	2	2	0	0	5	0	4
N. Ireland	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
Cyprus	3	0	0	3	0	9	0

Group 7

19.10.72 Spain 2, Yugoslavia 2
18.11.72 Yugoslavia 1 v. Greece 0
17. 1.73 Greece 2 v. Spain 3
21. 2.73 Spain v. Greece
21.10.73 Yugoslavia v. Spain
19.12.73 Greece v. Yugoslavia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yugoslavia	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
Spain	2	1	1	0	5	4	3
Greece	2	0	0	2	2	4	0

Group 8

18.10.72 Denmark 1, Scotland 4
15.11.72 Scotland 2 v. Denmark 0
2. 5.73 Denmark v. Czechoslovakia
6. 6.73 Czechoslovakia v. Denmark
26. 9.73 Scotland v. Czechoslovakia
17.10.73 Czechoslovakia v. Scotland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	2	2	0	0	6	1	4
Denmark	2	0	0	2	1	6	0
Czechoslovakia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Group 9

13.10.72 France 1, USSR 0
18.10.72 Eire 1, USSR 2
15.11.72 Eire 2 v. France 1
13. 5.73 USSR v. Eire
19. 5.73 France v. Eire
26. 5.73 USSR v. France

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	2	1	0	1	2	2	2
USSR	2	1	0	1	2	2	2
Eire	2	1	0	1	3	3	2

SOUTH AMERICA

Group 1

21. 6.73 Colombia v. Ecuador
24. 6.73 Colombia v. Uruguay
28. 6.73 Ecuador v. Columbia
1. 7.73 Ecuador v. Uruguay
5. 7.73 Uruguay v. Colombia
8. 7.73 Uruguay v. Ecuador

Group 2

2. 9.73 Bolivia v. Paraguay
9. 9.73 Argentina v. Bolivia
16. 9.73 Paraguay v. Argentina
23. 9.73 Bolivia v. Argentina
30. 9.73 Paraguay v. Bolivia
7.10.73 Argentina v. Paraguay

Group 3

31. 3.73 Venezuela v. Peru
12. 4.73 Peru v. Venezuela
15. 4.73 Chile v. Venezuela
24. 4.73 Venezuela v. Chile
3. 5.73 Chile v. Peru
17. 5.73 Peru v. Chile

d results ... European details ... league tables ... Classified results ...

UEFA CUP

Quarter-finals first and second legs

Tottenham Hotspur (0) 1 (Evans)
Vitoria Setubal (0) 0
Vitoria Setubal (1) 2 (Campora, Torres)
Tottenham (0) 1 (Chivers)

OFK Belgrade (2) 3 (Zec 3)
FC Twente (1) 2 (Van der Vall, Jeuring)
FC Twente (2) 2 (Jeuring 2)
OFK Belgrade (0) 0

Liverpool (1) 2 (Hall, Boersma)
Dynamo Dresden (0) 0
Dynamo Dresden (0) 0
Liverpool (0) 1 (Keegan)

West Germany (0) 2 (Hayncke, Cullmann)
Argentina (2) 3 (Ghiso, Alonso, Brindisi pen)

West Germany: Maier; Hottges, Vogts, Schwarzenbeck (Cullmann), Beckenbauer, Wimmer, Geye, Breitner, Heynckes, Overath, Kremers (Held).
Argentina: Carnevali; Wolff, Rosl, Brindisi, Bargas, Heredia, Chazarreta, Telch, Avallay, Alonso (Babington), Ghiso.

France (1) 1 (Molitor)
Portugal (1) 2 (Eusebio 2, 1 pen)

France: Carnus; Bossart, Adams, Tresor, Rostagni, Michel, Mezy (Hucki, Lech, Molitor (Floch), Revelli, Berta.
Portugal: Jose Henrique; Artur, Humberto, (Simoes), Freitas, Adolfo, Quaresma, Toni, Pavao, Nene (Diaiti), Abel (Artur Jorge), Eusebio.

Cyprus (0) 1 (Antoniou)
Northern Ireland (0) 0

Cyprus: Panos; Nicolis, Theodorous, Stavros, Koureas, Stephanis (Yiolaidis), Efturmiadis, Charalambos, Pamboulis, Antoniou, Stylianou (Tataros).

Ireland: Jennings; Rice, Neill, Hunter, Craig, Hegan, Clements, Hamilton, Dickson, Dougan, Nelson.

Turkey (0) 0
Italy (0) 1 (Anastasi)

Turkey: Sabri; Mehmet I, Muzaffer, Ozer, Zekeriya, Fusi (Koksal), Ziya, Bulent, Metin, Cemil, Mehmet II (Osman).
Italy: Zoff; Spinosi, Morini, Burgnich, Facchetti, Furino, Capello, Mazzola, Causio, Anastasi, Riva.

Spain (2) 3 (Claramunt, Sol, Roberto Martinez)
Greece (1) 1 (Antoniadis)

Spain: Reina; Sol, Benito, Violeta, Gallego, Rojo (Miguel), Claramunt, Amancio (Roberto Martinez), Garate, Asensi, Valdez.
Greece: Constantinou; Pallas, Athanassopoulos, Kapsis, Siekos, Sarafis, Dimitrou, Terzanidis (Nicolaidis), Antoniadis, Elefterakis, Mihaloupoulos (Papaioneaou).

Classified results ... European details ... league tables ... Classifie

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AC Milan	21	13	6	2	45	20	32
Juventus	21	11	8	2	27	13	30
Lazio	21	10	9	2	22	11	29
Inter-Milan	21	11	5	5	25	14	27
Fiorentina	21	9	6	6	24	21	24
Torino	21	9	5	7	23	14	23
Cagliari	21	7	8	6	19	16	22
Bologna	21	8	6	7	18	18	22
Napoli	21	6	7	8	12	14	19
AS Roma	21	5	7	9	18	20	17
Verona	21	3	11	7	16	21	17
Sampdoria	21	3	10	8	9	16	16
Alfasta	21	2	12	7	11	23	16
Vicenza	21	4	7	10	8	24	15
Palermo	21	3	8	10	8	24	14
Ternana	21	3	7	11	12	28	13

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PAOK Saloniks	22	17	3	2	47	15	59
Olympiakos Piraeus	21	15	5	1	43	6	56
Panathenaikos	20	15	3	2	51	12	53
Panachaiki	22	10	9	3	27	13	51
AEK Athens	22	10	8	4	27	20	50
Ethnikos	22	7	10	5	23	19	46
Panionios	22	8	7	7	27	19	45
Iraklis	22	7	8	7	24	25	44
Kavala	22	7	8	7	22	24	44
Aris Salonika	22	6	8	8	18	22	42
Aigaleo	22	7	5	10	21	36	41
Atromitos	22	5	8	9	9	24	40
Panteraikos	22	2	12	8	15	26	38
Kalamata	22	4	8	10	16	28	38
Fostir	22	6	4	12	13	27	38
Olympiakos Volos	22	5	6	11	17	35	38
Trikala	22	2	6	14	10	34	32
Omonia	22	1	6	14	17	44	29

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Velez	19	10	8	1	32	12	28
Red Star Belgrade	19	11	5	3	35	13	27
Partizan	19	10	5	4	29	21	25
OFK Belgrade	19	9	6	4	27	16	24
Sarajevo	19	9	4	6	33	26	22
Zeljeznicar	19	8	5	6	30	24	21
Sloboda	19	6	7	6	19	17	19
Celik	19	7	5	7	19	26	19
Borac	19	6	6	7	17	13	18
Radnicki	19	7	4	8	15	23	18
Vardar	19	6	5	8	20	28	17
Vojvodina	19	6	4	9	25	26	16
Olimpija	19	6	4	9	18	22	16
Hajduk Split	19	7	1	11	24	28	15
Dinamo Zagreb	19	5	5	9	12	24	15
Spartak	19	5	4	10	20	30	14
Sutjeska	19	5	4	10	18	29	14
Bor	19	4	6	9	17	32	14

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CSKA Sofia	20	12	4	4	44	23	28
Levski Spartak	20	11	5	4	40	18	27
Slavia Sofia	20	10	6	4	28	19	26
Dokomotiv Plovdiv	20	10	5	5	37	20	25
Spartak Pleven	20	9	4	7	31	25	22
Akademik Sofia	20	8	5	7	37	24	21
Pirsik	20	6	9	5	22	28	21
Dounav	20	8	5	7	16	24	21
Trakia Plovdiv	20	8	3	9	28	26	19
Botev Vratsa	20	8	3	9	26	35	19
Beroe Stara Zagora	20	8	2	10	30	23	18
Tschernomore Varna	20	7	4	9	29	34	18
Etar	20	5	7	8	23	32	17
Tschernomoretz Burgas	20	7	3	10	19	29	17
Liskov Jambol	20	6	4	10	24	35	16
ESK Spartak Varna	20	3	7	10	14	34	13
Volov Schumen	20	3	6	11	16	28	12

LUXEMBOURG

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jeunesse D'Esch	18	14	3	1	55	15	31
Union Luxembourg	18	8	7	3	45	29	23
Fola Esch	19	9	5	4	39	24	23
Rumelingen	18	7	7	4	28	22	21
Aris Bonnevoie	18	6	6	6	23	26	18
Etzella Ettelbruck	18	6	6	6	17	42	18
Red Boys	17	7	3	7	39	32	17
Avenir Beggen	18	6	4	8	30	41	16
Spora Luxembourg	18	5	5	8	26	33	15
The National	17	4	6	7	26	23	14
Tetingen	18	4	4	10	24	45	12
Sporting	18	2	2	14	19	58	6

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax Amsterdam	24	21	0	3	78	13	42
Feyenoord	23	18	2	3	57	18	38
Sparta Rotterdam	24	16	3	5	65	23	35
Twente Enschede	24	14	5	5	36	19	33
FC Den Haag	24	11	8	5	33	23	30
MVV Maastricht	24	11	6	7	37	27	28
PSV Eindhoven	23	9	6	8	33	26	24
Amsterdam	24	9	6	9	34	35	24
Telstar	23	10	3	10	30	34	23
Utrecht	24	9	5	10	33	40	23
NEC Nijmegen	24	7	6	11	29	37	20
Haarlem	24	7	6	11	27	38	20
NAC Breda	23	5	7	11	20	38	17
Go Ahead	24	6	5	13	22	37	17
AZ 67	24	6	5	13	24	46	17
Groningen	24	3	10	11	23	46	16
Den Bosch	24	2	7	15	11	50	11
Excelsior	24	2	6	16	9	51	10

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gornik Zabrze	14	8	4	2	16	5	20
Stal Mielec	14	6	6	2	25	14	18
Ruch Chorzow	14	7	4	3	17	9	18
Wisla Krakow	14	8	5	1	20	14	17
LKS Lodz	14	6	5	3	17	13	17
Gwardia Warsaw	14	6	4	4	17	12	16
Legia Warsaw	14	3	7	4	12	11	13
ROW Rybnik	14	4	5	5	11	14	13
Lech	14	4	5	5	8	15	13
Zaglebie Sosnowiec	14	4	4	6	15	16	12
Polonia Bytom	14	4	3	7	12	23	11
Zaglebie Walbrzych	14	4	2	8	14	21	10
Odra	14	2	6	6	10	19	10
Pogon	14	2	4	8	11	19	8

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Bruges	23	14	7	2	42	19	35
Standard Liege	23	10	10	3	30	17	30
Racing White	23	9	12	2	35	12	30
Anderlecht	23	10	8	5	39	23	28
Boerschot	23	11	5	7	30	25	27
Malines	23	8	11	4	30	23	27
Lierse SK	23	9	8	6	36	33	26
Berchem	23	8	8	7	20	18	24
CS Bruges	23	7	9	7	27	28	23
Antwerp	23	9	4	10	30	37	22
FC Liege	23	7	8	8	21	26	22
Beringen	23	7	7	9	22	28	21
Union St. Gilloise	23	4	8	11	14	29	16
St Trond	23	3	10	10	18	31	16
Diest	23	4	3	16	20	45	11
Crossing	23	2	6	15	12	42	10

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spartak Trnava	17	8	7	2	26	10	23
Tatran Presov	17	10	3	4	24	16	23
ZVL Zilina	17	9	6	2	29	19	20
VSS Kosice	17	8	3	6	26	16	19
Union Teplice	17	7	3	7	21	17	17
Dukla Prague	17	6	5	6	18	16	17
Sparta Prague	17	7	3	7	26	28	17
AC Nitra	17	8	1	8	21	23	17
Lokomotiv Kosice	17	7	3	7	22	25	17
Slovan Bratislava	17	6	5	6	16	19	17
Skoda Plzen	17	6	4	7	24	24	16
Hradec Kralov	17	6	4	7	16	29	16
Banik Ostrava	17	5	4	8	17	21	14
TZ Trinec	17	3	8	6	11	18	14
Zbrojovka Brno	17	4	5	8	24	29	13
Slavia Prague	17	3	6	8	14	25	12

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	27	19	5	3	70	27	43
Rangers	27	20	3	4	58	24	43
Hibernian	25	17	4	4	68	24	38
Dundee	27	13	7	7	50	32	33
Aberdeen	27	12	8	7	48	29	32
Dundee United	27	15	2	10	47	42	32
Ayr United	27	12	6	9	39	45	30
Hearts	26	12	4	10	36	37	28
East Fife	27	10	5	12	39	45	25
Morton	26	9	6	11	38	41	24
Motherwell	26	8	7	11	31	40	23
St Johnstone	27	7	8	12	28	53	22
Partick Thistle	26	8	5	13	32	40	21
Arbroath	27	8	5	14	35	49	21
Falkirk	26	5	10	11	28	41	20
Kilmarnock	25	5	6	16	30	58	16
Dumbarton	27	3	9	15	30	60	15
Airdrie	26	3	6	17	27	57	12

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Benfica	23	23	0	0	76	10	46
Belenenses	23	11	10	2	41	21	32
Vitoria Setubal	23	11	5	7	46	22	27
Porto	23	11	5	7	42	21	27
Sporting Club	23	11	5	7	47	26	27
Boavista	23	10	6	7	35	38	26
Guimaraes	23	8	8	7	31	26	24
CUF Barreiro	23	9	6	8	30	28	24
Leixoes	23	9	6	8	24	32	24
Moreirjo	23	8	4	11	21	27	20
Barreirense	23	6	5	12	29	49	17
Beira Mar	23	4	9	10	21	42	17
Farense	23	5	7	11	20	43	17
Coimbra	23	5	5	13	18	40	15
Tomar	23	5	4	14	21	36	14
Atletico	23	2	7	14	23	42	11

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nice	24	13	8	3	50	25	34
Nantes	24	14	6	4	39	21	34
Nimes	24	12	7	5	31	20	31
Olympique Marseille	24	12	6	6	42	22	30
St Etienne	24	11	7	6	42	39	29
Nancy	23	10	7	6	35	29	27
Angers	24	10	6	8	33	32	27
Lyon	24	10	6	8	41	41	26
Metz	24	9	6	9	27	35	24
Bastia	24	9	5	10	37	26	23
Rouen	24	7	8	9	28	33	22
Sochaux	24	8	6	10	31	37	22
Rennes	23	7	7	9	30	33	21
Bordeaux	24	7	7	10	35	37	21
Strasbourg	24	5	11	8	29	36	21
Red Star	24	5	8	11	21	32	18
Sedan	24	6	6	12	31	47	18
Paris	24	5	7	12	31	40	17
Valenciennes	24	5	7	12	24	36	17
Ajaccio	24	6	5	13	25	50	17

NORTHERN IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Crusaders	15	8	4	3	33	13	20
Coleraine	13	9	1	3	35	16	19
Ards	13	7	4	2	31	13	18
Glentoran	14	8	2	4	39	20	18
Glenavon	14	7	3	4	21	16	17
Portadown	13	6	4	3	18	16	16
Linfield	14	6	2	6	19	22	14
Distillery	13	5	3	7	25	34	13
Ballymena	15	4	4	7	15	22	12
Bangor	14	3	5	6	18	20	11
Cliftonville	14	3	1	10	14	48	7
Larne	15	1	2	10	18	48	4

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galatasaray	20	11	8	1	27	6	30
Fenerbahce	20	11	6	3	29	12	28
Ankaragucu	20	9	7	4	18	11	25
Eskisehirspor	20	8	8	4	24	15	24
Gontepe	20	9	6	5	22	15	24
Samsunspor	20	8	6	6	18	23	22
Giresun	20	8	5	7	18	18	21
Besiktas	20	5	11	4	9	11	21
Bolusspor	20	7	6	7	18	22	20
Bursaspor	20	3	12	5	15	19	18
Altay	20	6	5	9	17	16	17
Mersin Idman Yurdu	20	4	8	8	14	17	16
Adanaspor	20	5	5	10	14	25	15
Vefa	20	3	7	10	14	22	13
PTT	20	2	9	9	14	24	13
Sakarspor	20	3	7	10	10	23	13

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	33	20	8	5	60	35	48
Arsenal	34	20	8	6	48	31	48
Leeds United	31	18	8	5	56	33	44
Ipswich Town	32	15	10	7	46	33	40
Newcastle United	33	15	9	9	52	39	39
Wolverhampton W.	32	14	8	10	50	42	36
Derby County	34	14	7	13	42	48	35
Tottenham Hotspur	31	13	7	11	43	34	33
West Ham United	33	12	9	12	51	43	33
Coventry City	32	12	9	11	35	44	33
Chelsea	32	9	13	10	41	41	31
Manchester City	32	11	9	12	44	49	31
Southampton	33	8	15	10	32	38	31
Leicester City	33	8	12	13	34	41	28
Birmingham City	33	8	11	14	37	46	27
Everton	31	9	8	14	29	33	26
Sheffield United	32	9	8	15	33	47	26
Crystal Palace	31	7	11	13	33	39	25
Stoke City	31	8	8	15	45	45	24
Manchester United	32	7	10	15	32	53	24
Norwich City	32	8	8	16	27	48	24
West Bromwich Albion	31	7	8	16	28	46	22

RUMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo Bucharest	16	9	3	4	26	16	21
Steaua	16	8	4	4	27	13	20
Universitatea Craiova	16	6	7	3	29	23	19
CFR Cluj	16	7	5	4	19	14	19
Jiul	16	8	3	3	23	20	19
Petrolul Ploesti	16	7	4	5	15	14	18
SC Bacau	16	7	4	5	20	20	18
Steagul Rosu	16	6	3	7	21	12	15
Rapid Bucharest	16	5	5	6	19	17	15
AS Armata	16	7	1	8	22	26	15
UT Arad	15	4	6	5	17	17	14
Universitatea Cluj	16	5	4	7	16	28	14
Arges	15	5	3	7	21	17	13
Farul	16	5	3	8	9	19	13
CSM Resita	16	3	6	7	14	25	12
Sportul Studentesc	16	2	5	9	15	32	9

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ujpest Dozsa	17	13	1	3	47	9	27
Ferencvaros	17	10	4	3	36	19	42
Vasas Budapest	17	10	3	4	31	18	23
Honved	17	8	5	4	35	18	21
Csepel	17	5	9	3	25	17	19
Raba ETO	17	9	1	7	29	22	19
Videoton	17	8	3	6	25	21	19
Tatabanya	17	6	5	6	16	18	17
MTK Budapest	17	4	8	5	18	22	16
Szeged	17	5	6	6	19	27	16
Zalaegerszeg	17	5	4	8	20	25	14
Egyetertes	17	4	6	7	14	29	14
Salgotarjan	17	4	4	9	19	30	12
Komlo	17	2	8	7	18	29	12
Pecs	17	2	7	8	11	23	11
Diosgyor	17	1	6	10	10	37	8

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Espanol	24	13	8	3	37	19	34
Barcelona	24	13	8	3	28	11	34
Real Madrid	24	11	5	6	32	17	31
Atletico Madrid	24	13	5	6	31	20	31
Malaga	24	9	7	8	27	19	25
Real Zaragoza	24	8	8	8	24	25	24
Real Sociedad	24	10	4	10	28	31	24
Castellon	23	9	5	9	27	27	23
Atletico Bilbao	24	8	6	10	27	29	22
Granada	24	7	8	9	19	22	22
Las Palmas	24	9	4	11	26	33	22
Gijon	24	8	5	11	22	24	21
Oviedo	24	6	9	9	25	32	21
Valencia	24	6	8	10	26	27	20
Betis	24	6	8	10	21	28	20
Celta Vigo	24	7	6	11	20	28	20
Coruna	24	5	9	10	14	32	19
Burgos	23	6	5	12	23	37	17

PALMEIRAS Back row, left to right: Eurico, Leao, Luis Pereira, Alfredo, Dudu, Zeca. Front row: Ronaldo, Ademir da Guia, Leivinha, Madurga, Ney.

OLYMPIAKOS

Back row, left to right: Glezos, Kelessidis, Siokos, Angelis, Delikaris, Sinetopoulos. Front row: Gaitadzis, Argiroudis, Viera, Gioutsos, Papadimitriou.